

Bay Area Reporter

VOL. XXV No. 49 December 7, 1995

395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Pennies From Heaven



Photo: Gregory H. Fleischer

David Slocombe oversees the AIDS Emergency Fund penny jars at World AIDS Day festivities Dec. 1 at Justin Hermann Plaza. Slocombe and the late Fred Skau, a bartender at The Gate, started the AEF's Every Penny Counts project when they set an olive jar for collections on The Gate's bar in August 1987.

Clinton AIDS Conference Doesn't Mollify Activists

by Bob Roehr

About 200 East Coast activists stood outside the Wednesday, December 6 White House Conference on HIV and AIDS, chanting, "We will not rest in peace, AIDS action now" and "Don't send us to our grave, veto cuts in Medicaid" as participants arrived.

A flier prepared by the demonstrators questioned the meeting's relevance. "While the current administration claims that Bill Clinton has done more than any President regarding AIDS, the truth is that his efforts fall far short of what is needed," it stated. "Virtually all of his campaign promises, including that of implementing the recommendations of the two Presidential Commissions on AIDS, remain unfulfilled."

The flier also contained an explicit list of "50 actions President

Clinton can take to fight AIDS." They focused on healthcare delivery, housing, research, immigration, education and prevention, and perhaps most importantly, the issue of leadership: of using the "bully pulpit" of the White House to make AIDS a priority for the nation.

Meanwhile, inside the ornate Old Executive Office building and two other locations in the White House complex, insulated from the near-freezing temperatures and blustery wind, participants

were assigned to a series of nine "working groups."

During the lunch break, several inside participants joined protesters in Lafayette Park. One was Bill Freeman, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA). He described the morning session he attended as "talking heads," and the conference itself as "a report card for what Bill Clinton has done on AIDS over the first three years."

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CBS 86s CDC HIV PSA

by Al Kielwasser,
Gay & Lesbian Alliance
Against Defamation

Respect yourself, protect yourself" is the theme of a new series of broadcast public service announcements (PSAs) released Thursday, November 30 by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The new radio and television campaign specifically targets young adults, in an effort to curb HIV infection among 18- to 25-year olds. According to Department of Health & Human Services spokesperson Helene Gayle, "The PSAs were developed with extensive input from a diverse group of young adults representing a variety of national and community-based organizations."

"Rather than lecturing, the ads feature eight credible young adults talking to their peers about safer sexual choices in the age of HIV and AIDS."

Several of the new spots feature young, racially diverse gay men. While the dialogue is sickeningly subtle in regard to sexual identity (the spot does not use the words "gay" or even "homosexual"), the message carries no pretense of heterosexuality. In a 30-second spot titled "Men - Talk About It," a young couple exchange such banter as: "We love to talk about sex," "There's no reason to be scared," and "If you don't practice safe sex, and I do, then we're not made for each other, honey."

Astonishingly, the PSAs are the first gay-specific TV spots ever produced by the CDC. Even more remarkably, the nation's major TV networks have been hesitant to commit to airing these particular messages. According to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, at least one network - CBS - has refused outright to air the "gay spot."



"Respect yourself, protect yourself" spokesman Dwayne proclaims: "I'm HIV negative, and I intend to stay that way."

According to the CDC, "the major commercial networks have supported CDC HIV prevention PSAs since 1987. The HIV prevention PSAs released in 1994 have received over \$30 million in air time." The new and much-more controversial PSAs have already been distributed to the networks, and will be made available to local affiliates in January, 1996.

While far from direct or openly-affirming, the gay-focused spots are a breakthrough nevertheless. Every responsible broadcaster should be rushing at the opportunity to air these long-overdue messages. How many thousands more dead gay kids must it take to purchase 30 seconds of prime time? Fortunately, most local broadcasters have expressed much less reluctance than CBS, and some stations - including BAY-TV - have specifically committed to airing the young gay men's

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'Homosexuality in School' in the House: Candace Asks To Testify, Lou Sheldon Gets Bitchy

United Press International

House Speaker Newt Gingrich's lesbian half-sister said Friday, December 1 she is concerned that gay witnesses were not invited to this weekend's House proceedings on homosexuality in education. Candace Gingrich said homosexuals should be represented at the hearings on December 5 and 6, and offered to testify herself.

"I understand that these hearings will explore how schools around the country are handling some very important and sensitive issues, including local community efforts designed to protect young people from hate violence, discrimination, AIDS, and suicide," she wrote in a letter dated Friday to Republican Representative Peter Hoekstra of Michigan.

Hoekstra is the chairman of the subcommittee holding the hearings.

"It is my understanding that no lesbian or gay person is scheduled to appear, even though the difficult issues up for discussion have a profound impact on the health and safety of America's lesbian and gay young people and our families," she wrote. "Mr. Chairman, this omission concerns me a great deal."

Gingrich said that while traveling across the country over the past six months, she has met with thousands of young people who have stories to tell about homosexuality.

"I know first-hand about the hate, violence, and discrimination that gay people often face in school," she said. "Some are lesbian or gay, while others are merely perceived to be gay by their peers. All have stories to tell that should not be left out of any sincere debate on values in our schools."

Hoekstra's subcommittee has not released a full list of witnesses who will testify at the hearings, although former education secretary and social conservative author William Bennett is scheduled to testify on the first day.

The hearings have come under fire from the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian and gay political organization.

HRC claims the hearings were initiated by Reverend Lou Sheldon, the head of the Traditional Values Coalition, whom it de-

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Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R-Mich.): The hearings he chaired were the target of criticism by the HRC.

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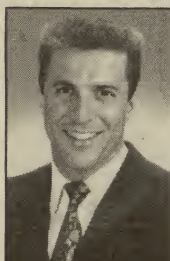
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo: Jane Philomen Chelard

A Call for Accountability

Terence Alan, who hosted the New Year's Eve fundraiser for Visual AIDS that was raided by the SFPD, speaks out at a Nov. 29 "boom-box party" outside the Hall of Justice on Bryant Street. The party, billed as an "Action for Police Accountability," was held prior to a Police Commission Meeting to voice community outrage over the Police Department's "inaction and delays in punishing officers" involved in the raid. Call 487-5437 for more information.

AHP Zap Flap Settled?

by Dennis Conkin

Supervisor Susan Leal has made public a Monday, December 4 letter to AIDS Health Project Director James Dille, MD, in which she said she couldn't attend the group's November 27 gala fundraiser because of a scheduling conflict.

Leal, who had been listed as a sponsor of the AHP gala, attended the 17th annual memorial Milk/Moscone candlelight march instead that night.

Although Leal wrote that AHP "is an important service provider in our community of HIV/AIDS organizations, and fundraising events such as the gala are crucial to AHP's fiscal visibility," she added the scheduling conflict "has raised issues which may have distracted both from the march and

the fundraising efforts of AHP."

The AHP black tie gala was the subject of a demonstration by a handful of AIDS activists from ACT UP/San Francisco, who picketed the event for honoring SF AIDS Foundation Director Pat Christen and for holding the event the same night as the Milk/Moscone March.

The activists chanted, blew whistles, carried placards calling Christen a "fat cat," and set off a stink bomb by the revolving doors of the entrance to the Hyatt Regency, where the fundraiser was held.

The group was criticized last week by Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who challenged their statement that he would draft such a letter to AHP as a "total bullshit lie."

Ammiano told the Bay Area Re-

porter this week that the incident was a miscommunication and has been amicably straightened out.

Ammiano also gave a speech at the annual memorial march that honors the lives and contributions of slain Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone, who were assassinated execution-style by former Supervisor Dan White. It attracted around 300 participants this year.

The AIDS Health Project fundraiser drew an estimated 600 people for a sold-out evening of cabaret entertainment and a speech by Christen.

The annual event raised an estimated \$50,000 for clients with AIDS and at risk for AIDS, who receive a wide array of prevention, counseling, antibody testing, and other AIDS-related services from AHP. ▼

SF Effort To Halt Bosnia Intervention Provokes Insults

by Mary Ann Swissler

A small but vocal group of gay and straight San Franciscans who oppose any intervention into the Bosnian war has been unsuccessful in getting the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to back their efforts.

Tyler Kent, part of an eight-person contingent of "anti-war" protesters calling itself the Committee Against Intervention in the Balkans, told the Bay Area Reporter the group got nowhere in an attempt to persuade supervisors to introduce a measure.

Kent said that he and other members of his group spoke with aides to every supervisor, all of whom declined to support such a measure since they support President Clinton's decision.

He directed his harshest criticism at Supervisor Tom Ammiano, whom he termed a "squishy liberal." Ammiano, in turn, told the Bay Area Reporter he is convinced CAIB's real reasons for pushing the issue have to do with political issues a lot closer than

the Balkans.

He said that from what other aides have told them, one of CAIB's members, gay right-wing writer Justin Raimondo, said he intended to expose the progressives on the board as "hypocrites" for supporting intervention by U.S. troops.

"I personally abhor his politics, and I think this is a setup," Ammiano told the B.A.R.

Kent confirmed that Raimondo is involved, but insisted CAIB is a single-issue group.

An agreement between warring Bosnian factions is set to be signed Tuesday, December 14 in Paris, and enforced by NATO and American soldiers. CAIB maintains such a move would be an act of aggression in the Balkans.

Ammiano echoed many elected officials around the country, including U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi, when he said the contingent of 20,000 U.S. troops was part of a peacekeeping mission, and not an invasion. CAIB disrupted Pelosi's appearance at a

town hall meeting at Roosevelt Middle School last week, because she voted down a measure that would have stopped funding for troop movements into the Balkans.

But, Ammiano admitted, "I'm really ambivalent about it, I really am. It's like [U.S. Representative] Pat Schroeder said, 'Are we going to be the 911 of the world?'"

"I'm not a very pro-military person in general. But some of the people who are against it, are also for a \$7 billion increase in the military."

In particular, notoriously anti-gay presidential candidate Pat Buchanan came out against Balkan intervention. Kent said that while he perceives Buchanan's politics as "just right of Genghis Khan," the group "welcome[s] Pat Buchanan and anyone else who is against the war. His views are irrelevant on any other issue."

"If we can get the Christian fundamentalists on our side, then maybe we can get them to stop seeing us as enemies." ▼

SF Gay Poet's Whereabouts Unknown

by Dennis Conkin

The mysterious disappearance of 39-year-old gay poet Karl Tierney continues to baffle friends and his elderly parents, according to local filmmaker David Lamble.

Tierney was last spotted in the middle of October at a Muni Metro station and has not been seen since, Lamble told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"There was a note left, which mentioned suicide," Lamble said. "He was extremely depressed, but all we know for sure is that he left his apartment at 13th and Folsom. He had just gotten a cat. He left everything in the apartment: credit cards, checks, and a round-trip ticket to New York."

Tierney was a well-educated writer who received a Master's of Fine Arts in creative writing at the University of Arkansas, Lamble said, and was a onetime fellow at Yaddo, the prestigious writer's colony.

As the author of three forthcoming books of poetry, Tierney was close to reaching critical success as a poet, after publication in an estimated 20 literary magazines and venues and the publication of a small chapbook of poems. Much of Tierney's writing was about life in the South of Market area, where he had lived for more than a decade, Lamble said.

The poet also collaborated with Lamble in the production of the acclaimed video *Bodybuilders*.

Tierney had been depressed for

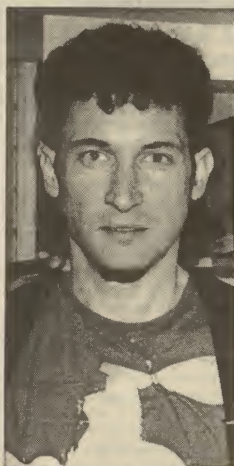
some time over his health, which was beginning to decline due to HIV infection, Lamble said.

"Karl believed he had been positive since 1983, before there was an HIV test. He was a longterm survivor, but his T-cell count had declined precipitously and he was down to fewer than 50 T-cells," Lamble told the *B.A.R.*

Tierney was attempting to enter a protease inhibitor study at the University of California San Francisco, but it was unclear whether he had actually been admitted to the study.

Friends and relatives have been in touch with police, but say there are no leads to Tierney's disappearance. ▼

Anyone who may have seen Tierney, or has information concerning his whereabouts, should contact Lamble at (415) 861-2996 or the San Francisco Police Missing Persons Bureau at (415) 292-2294.



Vanished: Karl Tierney.

LEGAL QUESTION?

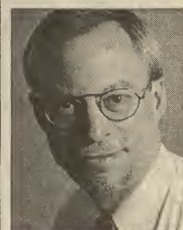


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'Silencing Tactics' by Migden Aide?

by Hakeem Oseni II

A gay San Francisco man has accused Supervisor Carole Migden's office of trying to silence him, after an office aide allegedly blew a loud whistle at him over the phone and reported him to police for harassment.

After reading an article in the *Bay Area Reporter* about Supervisor Carol Migden's support for mayoral candidate Willie Brown, Dan Collins called the supervisor's office last week to ask why she had not supported her fellow lesbian mayoral candidate, Roberta Achtenberg. Collins, a 15-year San Francisco HIV-positive resident, said the aide hung up - and when he called again, "someone blew a whistle in my ear!"

Soon, he told the *B.A.R.*, he started getting calls from the police, who were investigating him for possible harassment of the supervisor. "I think it's a waste of city funds to investigate claims of harassment when there is no case," Collins argued.

"I made no threats to her office. I just stated the fact that I was upset that I had been treated so rudely by a public official."

"I won't be silenced," Collins said, describing the aide's actions as silencing tactics.

"I have HIV which is handicapping. ... I have the right to object - and I expect respect. I've been stressed out and I don't expect to get a call from a police officer because I object to the way politicians are doing their jobs."

Police Inspector Robert Hudley told the *B.A.R.*, "There's really no case."

Migden refused to comment on the matter. ▼

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Crypto Task Force: Activists Say It's Just Crap

by Dennis Conkin

The work of Supervisor Carole Migden's Cryptosporidium Task Force has finished on schedule and accomplished its main goals, Migden announced on Monday, December 4 – but AIDS activist critics of the group instead charge it has flushed away an opportunity to make a difference.

According to Rob Sabados of ACT UP/Golden Gate, Migden's task force failed to "adopt any clear recommendation regarding cryptosporidium in San Francisco's drinking water." Sabados vehemently denounced Migden as "a disgrace to the community" and said the AIDS activist group will begin to distribute a California Department of Health Services fact sheet recommending that people with AIDS or otherwise compromised immune systems "always boil their drinking water" to kill the deadly parasite.

Sabados told the *Bay Area Reporter* ACT UP/Golden Gate was "very disappointed" that Migden would "exploit people with AIDS in this way."

"She panders to the gay vote and to people with HIV and AIDS but doesn't do anything for them," he said.

The group charged that Migden had issued a set of 20 stated goals for the task force, but arbitrarily disbanded the group once it served its publicity purposes and merely approved an information flier about the parasite developed by Health Department San Francisco AIDS Office director Mitch Katz, MD.

cisco AIDS Office director Mitch Katz, MD.

"Apparently, Migden thought this would be an easy issue on which to win press points, but when it turns out that the city needs to take real action and spend money to improve water quality, Migden wants to declare victory and duck for cover," said ACT Golden Gate member Michael Laro. "I hope she doesn't have the audacity to claim this as any kind of victory. People with AIDS should not be fooled: Migden deserted us on this issue."

The censure of Migden is particularly stinging, given that it comes from a chapter of the AIDS activist group noted more for its effective treatment and science advocacy than political rhetoric.

'Keep moving'

Migden defended the Task Force's work and approval of the flier that, she said, spells out ways to avoid becoming infected by the parasite through either sexual contact or drinking water.

"We will keep moving on and doing what we can. We really had a creative group of people who stepped forward with recommendations and long-term plans," she told the *B.A.R.*

Migden said that recommendations that people with AIDS or other immunocompromising illnesses always boil drinking water "were unrealistic" because of concerns about people with dementia and other illness.

Migden also said various members of the task force would work with companies that manufacture bottled water and filters, asking them to donate them for use by people at risk, particularly in AIDS hospices, SFGH AIDS wards, and other places with large numbers of people living with suppressed immune systems.

Activists had recommended bottled water and filters be immediately made available in public health institutions as a public health measure.

The flier approved by

Migden's task force includes recommendations that to avoid infection with cryptosporidium, people shower after anal intercourse, use protection during oral-anal contact, boil tap water or use a water filter, avoid soil contact, and avoid swallowing lake, river, swimming pool, or bathing water.

According to an October 1995 report issued by ACT UP/Golden Gate, San Francisco Water Department test results show that the city's drinking water "routinely contains levels of cryptosporidium that have been associated with outbreaks of cryptosporidium disease in other parts of the country."

The report states that the SF Water Department-treated water has contained levels as high as 7.7 cryptosporidium oocysts – the hard-shelled mature stage of the parasite – per 100 liters of water.

In the 1993 Milwaukee cryptosporidium outbreaks that sickened more than 400,000 people, oocysts levels in water ranged from 6.7 to 13.2 oocysts per 100 liters.

"ACT UP/Golden Gate continues to demand that the city issue an official advisory that people with AIDS should always boil their water," Sabados said in a press statement. "The group calls on the city of San Francisco to make its drinking water safe by upgrading the city's water purification system to eliminate cryptosporidium."

The single-celled parasite can occur in surface water, such as reservoirs that supply water to San Francisco, or when the water becomes contaminated with human or animal feces.

According to Sabados, San Francisco is the only city in California not required to filter surface water before it is delivered to customers. According to the U.S. Center For Disease Control, people with less than 180 CD4 cells/mm are vulnerable to contracting incurable cryptosporidium disease, which causes relentless and debilitating diarrhea and other symptoms. ▼

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Senate Approves Drinking Water Overhaul

United Press International

In a rare display of bipartisanship on environmental legislation, the Senate unanimously approved a bill to revamp the Safe Drinking Water Act on Wednesday, November 29.

The bill gives states greater authority to determine what contaminants pose the greatest health risks in individual communities and apply their resources to the largest threats. Its provisions would also:

- Replace a requirement that the EPA add standards for 25 additional contaminants every three years with language to allow the addition of five contaminants every five years.

- Require the EPA, which now has standards for approximately 80 contaminants, to conduct a cost-benefit analysis for each new drinking water standard it promulgates.

- Allow parties to contest EPA rulings in court.

- Give operators of water systems three years to comply with new water standards, twice as long as the current 18 months.

Democratic Senator Jim Exon

of Nebraska, a key player in crafting the bill, said it "strikes a balance by recognizing the need to protect our drinking water, but also allowing states' flexibility in determining how best to protect this valuable resource."

The measure, approved 99-0, now moves to the House, which also has had its share of disputes over bills to alter or restrict the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory authority.

Republicans in both houses of Congress say they are trying to free business from excessive and expensive regulation that drains business of precious resources, impedes competition, and hurts the economy and jobs.

Many citizen and environmental groups have charged the GOP is trying to dismantle 20 years of work to establish environmental and public safety protection.

Exon said the new measure "combines flexibility with a good dose of common sense."

Using an argument usually used by Republicans to defend their proposals, he said, "As we all know, unnecessary and heavy-handed mandates have cost our nation's small communities dearly." ▼

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Photo: Mayor Frank Jordan walks down Market Street at the 17th Annual Harvey Milk/George Moscone Candlelight March November 27, 1995.

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OPEN FORUM

Vol. XXV No. 49 • December 7, 1995

Next Issue Out: December 14

Next Deadline: December 8

EDITORIAL

Reelect Frank Jordan

More elections should be like this one. Too often we find ourselves, and our friends, complaining that elections are only attempts to guess the lesser of evils. Too many votes are cast because of fear, or blind optimism in the unknown. All too rarely is it possible to mark a ballot with the confidence we would like.

This year, however, it's different. This year it is possible to reelect Mayor Frank Jordan proudly and confidently, based on all he's done for San Francisco since he took office four years ago.

Last weekend we took a walk through the streets of this amazing city, and felt the kind of civic pride most people can't imagine. The unique character of San Francisco, with its multiplicity and infinite variety, came shining through and reminded us once again why we don't want to live anywhere else.

We would encourage every voter in town to do the same before they vote on Tuesday. Look around, and see the way this city has been lovingly maintained during the Jordan administration. Look at how the quality of life is better after four years of his leadership than in any comparable city in America (as if there were any comparable city, anywhere).

Quality of life is hardly an accident. It is very hard work to build and maintain; the excellence of life in San Francisco is a testament to the stewardship of Frank Jordan. Best of all, it was built for *all* residents – of all races, sexes, sexual orientations, political affiliations, and abilities – rather than for a cadre of financial support-

ers and cronies.

The obvious thing is that Jordan loves this city as deeply as anyone else, and is genuinely committed to preserving, protecting, and nurturing it. And after proving that point for the last four years, he deserves reelection.

His opponent, on the other hand, is a man who has spent his career making him-

self into the most-despised (and probably least-powerful) man in the eyes of the current State Assembly. And, to be honest, he doesn't deserve any better reception in the gay community: Willie Brown's legacy includes vocal opposition to virtually every gay or lesbian candidate to run in California in the last two decades; that recent disgraceful usury of the community when he pretended to participate in the Milk/Moscone march; and an early tip of his hand by trying to block the mayor's latest gay appointee – one in a very long string of gay appointees, we might add.

Yes, there are those who say Mayor Jordan is more boring than Brown; but then, there are also people who inexplicably leave hard-working and dedicated lovers to become groupies for flashy rock stars. It happens, but it's hardly sensible and we would hardly choose those people to choose our leaders. The fact is, we appreciate trustworthiness, hard work, and commitment, even if they are now considered boring, and we suspect other voters do, too.

Go ahead, take the walk – or do it Willie Brown-style, looking through the windows from the back of a car. In either case, when you're done, you'll cast your vote to reelect Mayor Jordan.



Elect Terence Hallinan

The race for district attorney has no incumbent any longer, so it's impossible to base that vote on previous performance in that job. Bill Fazio has worked in the D.A.'s office for some 20 years, and Terence Hallinan has been a supervisor for eight. Both have strong visions of the role of the district attorney, and how the office can best serve the lesbian and gay community.

In the final analysis, it comes down to each voter's vision of the D.A. – Hallinan is somewhat more liberal, and therefore probably more in keeping with the community's views.

Both candidates have suffered more than the usual amount of mud-slinging recently, but it seems both have weathered the storm. What is most important with the election so close is that neither has been proven crooked or lunatic or anything else that would render him unfit for the job.

As we said, this is a tough call, but Supervisor Hallinan has the slim edge.

Whatever you decide, don't forget your right and responsibility.



Make sure you vote Tuesday, December 12.

GUEST OPINION

Virtually Ourselves

by Mitchell Halberstadt

What are our community's true interests? We share aspects of identity, but we're all different – each relating differently to what we see as the rest of the world. That's our perennial quandary.

In current books, Andrew Sullivan (*Virtually Normal*) and Urvashi Vaid (*Virtual Equality*) spin this quandary in virtually opposite directions. The difference is emphasis – Sullivan's on formal individual rights, Vaid's on social justice and acceptance – implying differing attitudes toward the "mainstream."

Vaid sees a narrow mainstream, ironically echoing conservative Bruce Bawer (*A Place at the Table*) – though Vaid shuns what Bawer yearns to join. Sullivan sidesteps this, insisting on keeping "identity" beyond the reach of politics – a view easily (and wrongly) conflated with "assimilationist" conservatism.

Many unstated assumptions lie hidden behind questions of assimilation. Assimilation to what?

Some of my own assumptions:

- In the mainstream, *diversity* is normal. So's alienation. Coping and striving – alone and unique: that's the real staging-ground for all bonds.

- Respect is between individuals, and must be earned. Ask any fairy (as Lester Young could have said): "We earn our wings every day."

- No political (even "revolutionary") bill of goods – no product – transcends this. Heard otherwise? It's hype. Inevitably, after the hype comes the grunt: "Where's the pork?"

- Under such circumstances, a cold, blind, formal equality – free from regimentation – is the best any system can deliver. We should demand this – rather than trafficking in "sacred cows" and speech codes, which can easily backfire.

- We deserve still better, but "better" lies elsewhere – to find in ourselves, and to create in our everyday lives.

Others may diverge from such individualistic assumptions – focusing more, for instance, on social justice. We differ on perceptions and priorities, on balances and blind spots.

So...do we have any common interests?

Our interests as a *community* are specifically gay and lesbian concerns. (Add "bisexual" and "transgender" if desired.)

From marriage, child custody, and domestic partners, to fighting anti-gay initiatives and homophobic media, to being "out" everywhere – there are common questions of equality, of fending off threats, of life and death.

Things get tricky, however, when questions involve an "analysis of power relations" that we may not all share.

Such analyses are often accompanied by a cacophony of calls for alliances, backed by the incantation of slogans – often threatening to drown identity in a sea of "isms."

Those defending such positions argue that rights don't exist in a vacuum, or outside history – that personal freedom must be balanced by compassion – and that our allies are those with whom we share a common enemy.

Careful! There are as many "takes" on history as there are people living in it. Each of us has a unique place in the world – a unique approach to identity, to personal responsibility and self-respect – hence, a different definition of compassion. We abandon neutrality at our peril.

This also applies to alliances and coalitions.

We should eschew bigotry and hatred – but resist demands for conformity or self-denial. We should demand decency of prospective allies, as we demand it of ourselves.

Lou Sheldon is an oppressor – and so's Reverend Lumpkin. And sayin'ister trumpeted the "n-word," our community would condemn him – unanimously and loudly. We should expect real allies to recognize our principles, and to reciprocate fully and in kind.

Like compassion, coalition and mutual support are a two-way street – full of surprises – based on mutual recognition.

We should avoid rigid definitions – especially those involving "privilege" and "naming oppressions."

Such arbitrary "naming" can become a way to objectify, depersonalize, and dehumanize – contributing to the very divisions our enemies thrive on.

For instance, in Queer Nation, the nadir was reached when gay men were denounced as a group for "My-People-Are-Dying Privilege."

In reality, the supposedly "privileged" usually get mere crumbs – like that condescending banner that adorns the UCSF AIDS Health Project building in the Castro – "The dream is now a reality" – which should read, "The nightmare is now an institution." "Privilege" often means little beyond being a target for sneers from all sides.

We need dialogue, not name-calling – understanding, not group-think. Reality's more subtle (and in-your-face!) than blanket "assimilation" – or wholesale condemnation.

We're still about the freedom (and need) to love – whatever that implies for each of us.

In this world, the first step toward being truly "in your face" is learning to look each other in the eye. ▼

LETTERS

Think before you vote

I just finished walking in the march for Harvey Milk and George Moscone, with a lot of people from our community. I stood and listened to all the politicians speak at the end of the march. Mayor Jordan spoke and Willie Brown spoke. (Well, Willie did a campaign speech.) In his (Brown's) campaign speech, Willie told everyone what a good friend George was to him. Here is my point to Mr. Brown. If George was so close to you, why did you not listen to him and why did you oppose Harvey Milk being appointed to the board in 1975 & '77? I could go on, like how you forced Cleve Jones out of the '92 Assembly race, or how you opposed Harry Britt every time he ran for office. I think the gay community better stop and think before they vote, and look what Frank Jordan has done for us. Frank Jordan is honest. This may be his biggest drawback. With Jordan what you see is what you get, he doesn't talk out of both sides of his mouth.

My final point to Mr. Brown is if you and George Moscone were such close friends, where were you the other 16 marches, and why at this one after only 2 blocks and the news cameras were turned off did you leave the march and drive to City Hall? Maybe there was just too many gay people around you, or maybe you're too good to walk with us. This also makes me think after two days, weeks, months in City Hall, will you walk away from us then also? (Frank walked the whole way candle in hand.)

David M. Randall
San Francisco

Career politicians

Gay and lesbian supporters of Willie Brown (and possibly Achtenberg herself) just don't get it. They think that Achtenberg supporters were only supporting her because she is a lesbian, so we should naturally be willing to jump right on the Willie bandwagon. Why should we?

All voters love to say that they are tired of career politicians who are ineffective and unethical, yet look at our choices for mayor. We are left with an incumbent mayor with no major accomplishments, and an unethical, 31-year veteran of the public trough. Nice choice, folks!

Our city government needs a major overhaul, not the minor tinkering that it will receive from Willie or Frank. Roberta Achtenberg promised us a major overhaul of city government which was documented in great detail in her publicly available position papers. Did anyone bother to read them? I guess that is just too much trouble for some voters.

There is no good reason that a person should be involved in politics for 31 years. In fact, it is one of the major causes of voter apathy today. Why should anyone go out to vote if the democratic machine (i.e. Carol and Willie) have already decided who is going to win?

Not only do career politicians become complacent and obnoxious, but they stifle the flow of new ideas that our city most desperately needs. Unfortunately, many voters are stupid enough to vote for the same old people (and ideas) over and over again. So the rest of us get what the sheep deserve.

For the Achtenberg supporters who are thinking of not voting, think of this. Thanks to term limits, Jordan is limited to 4 more years (Willie will be there for 8 years). So vote for Frank, and maybe we can get a real mayor next time.

Brian Haney
San Francisco

Break the machine!

I'm not even a football fan, but whenever the 49ers beat Dallas as they did 38-20, I'm delighted, especially as the odds favored Dallas. Similarly, I will be pleased if Frank Jordan can pull one out against Willie Brown. Brown, whose tobacco-hustling chums are chortling along with him over burying that "damn lesbian" in the Nov. 7 primary, had promised the gay community five days before the election everything but a cure for AIDS in the first 90 days of his administration. His self-serving proclamations and pontificating managed to entice 90 % of the gay community "leadership" (make those triply large quotes around that word) into bowing before his candidacy. However, at present that leadership is little more than an unfocused bankrupt elite, pathetically out-of-touch with the grassroots lesbian and gay voter.

Hopefully the Achtenberg vote will not sell out to the Brown-Burton machine (I for one will not, and know I am not alone) as - *et tu, Roberta?* - even our former candidate seems to have done. Send a message December 12 against an egregiously inattentive "leadership" and self-serving ambitions of the Migden cocktail clique.

Arthur R. Arroyo
San Francisco

Sour grapes from the election

Most of us who supported Roberta Achtenberg are now enthusiastically supporting Willie Brown for mayor. Recent polls clearly show that over 70% of Roberta Achtenberg's supporters are now joining the massive progressive coalition behind Speaker Emeritus Willie Brown.

I am dismayed that a small element of our community is afflicted with a terminal case of sour grapes. While I can understand why some people may have lingering bad feelings, I feel encouraged by the movement of our community leaders, grassroots organizations, lesbian and gay clubs and health care activists firmly into the Brown column.

Therefore I cannot help but be dismayed by the comments of a former Achtenberg supporter, who has attacked Carole Migden for supporting Willie Brown and is threatening to find a candidate to oppose her in her race for the 13th Assembly District. Two things come immediately to mind: First, if he was so upset about someone not supporting a lesbian candidate, then how does he justify his desire to now find an opponent for a lesbian candidate in a prime position to be elected to the Assembly? Second, are sour grapes really worth abandoning Harvey Milk's dream of electing one of our own from San Francisco to the Assembly?

We have a unique ability to heal this great city and bring together disparate groups of people to allow San Francisco to flourish to her fullest potential. Let's not let these wonderful opportunities pass us by.

Jack D. Bernal
San Francisco

Timely reminder

I know that the B.A.R. is supporting Frank Jordan for mayor, but I was struck by the odd juxtaposition of articles on your front cover last week.

The front page article at the top of the page was yet another attack on Willie Brown, who on his own initiative passed the consenting adults law. This law, in effect, ended felony criminal penalties for gay sex between consenting adults in California. Beneath that article is an article about Republican State Senate Leader Rob Hurt's efforts to reinstate a sodomy law in California.

How often do we need to be reminded of the key role that Willie Brown played in our liberation? Frank Jordan keeps attacking the Willie Brown machine, but I prefer to call it a coalition of lesbians and gays, women, environmentalists, people of color, AIDS activists and neighborhood leaders. Nobody in the history of the state has done more for these groups than Willie Brown.

Thanks for the reminder of just how important this election is in the face of the insurgent right.

Joseph Motta
San Francisco

Quadrennial spectacle

If memory serves, the B.A.R. has not endorsed a winning candidate for mayor since 1983, and that streak is not likely to be broken this year. Every four years your news and editorial columns are filled with shrill invective directed against the candidate who inevitably wins. Your ranting is at such a hysterical pitch it can't possibly be taken seriously by any discerning voter.

Then, when the election is over and your candidate has lost, there is a sudden change in tone in your writing. Your publisher and his toadies and cronies begin lapping furiously at the posterior of the winning candidate in a frantic effort to retain their coveted commission appointments. The whole ugly quadrennial spectacle reflects very poorly on your newspaper.

Leonard Whitney
San Francisco

[The editor responds: We endorse and support candidates based upon their qualifications; we go to Las Vegas when we want to test our betting ability.]

Are we his stepping stone?

While I am assuredly no fan of Frank Jordan, I will propose two questions regarding the impending mayoral run-off election, to those who support Willie Brown. If elected, will Mr. Brown complete his tenure in office as mayor of San Francisco?

Or, is his bid now a stepping stone to return to Sacramento as governor, when Wilson's term expires in two years? Lest we delude ourselves, Mr. Brown's ambitions have always been on a statewide level. At least Migden, Shelley, and Alioto are open and honest about their desire to gain a legislative seat in Sacramento.

Can the same openness and honesty be applied to Mr. Brown? *Caveat elector!*

R M Humphries
San Francisco

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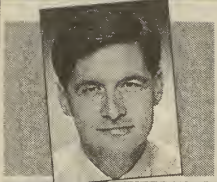
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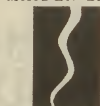
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LETTERS

Out of the bars

The 17th candlelight memorial march to remember George Moscone and Harvey Milk on November 27 was a disappointment!

Have we forgotten, or have the nearly 14,000 felled to AIDS blinded us from what Milk did on our behalf? Those streets should have been overflowing like the bars on Castro, Polk and Upper Market St. were. It's time to stop drowning our sorrows in the bars and to participate for the living.

William Davis
San Francisco

Science and ethics

I would like to congratulate Michael Botkin for his commentary "Evil Science." I am a grad student in the biological sciences, and I am certain that every working scientist has had to deal with issues of ethics at some time in her or his career.

Sometimes the question is as seemingly trivial as whether or not to massage data so that questionable research becomes publishable. How does a scientist demonstrate displeasure, especially if she/he is an author of the study in question? What if you're young and inexperienced, and the research can make or break your career?

We must never forget that scientists have allowed themselves - and their research - to be used for all manner of evil purposes, up to and including genocide. I will never forget reading about the doctors who, for racist or ideological reasons, cooperated in the Nazi concentration camps.

Few of us are forced into making such gut-wrenching decisions. But if we do not take responsibility now, in the small cases, who is to say that we would make an ethical decision later, when the stakes may be higher?

Dianne M. Leonard
Berkeley

Little faith in government

More than a third of 1,000 African-American church members surveyed believe HIV was developed by the U.S. in a germ warfare lab and used to commit genocide against their race, according to a report released at the latest meeting of the American Public Health Association. Although I don't share this belief, as an African-American gay man I'm not surprised to find that people can have so little faith in their government. The nation's AIDS treatment, research, and education efforts have seemed as irrelative as other national efforts to solve problems that primarily affect minorities.

ACT UP founder Larry Kramer has also used the word "genocide" to characterize federal AIDS policies. Such distrust of government among African-Americans, gays, and others is one reason why community-based AIDS organizations seek to ensure HIV prevention and care providers reflect the demographics of the populations they serve. An African-American client, for instance, will be quicker to feel comfortable with an African-American HIV prevention counselor, much as gay clients will feel more comfortable with a gay counselor.

Distrust of government is also a reason why mandatory HIV testing and name reporting policies would not slow the spread of AIDS. The CDC has stated that mandatory testing "may adversely affect the patient-provider relationship." A 1990 study reported in *Current Science* showed 60% of those seeking HIV testing in Alameda County would not take the test if positive results had to be reported to health officials. Linking people from the fringes of society to healthcare services takes considerable skill and effort. Why drive them away? Voluntary, anonymous testing has been proven to be far more effective than coerced testing. Perhaps the survey of African-American church members mentioned above will help skeptics to understand why.

Vincent Robinson
Vice Chair, Mobilization Against AIDS

Seeking antiviral competence

Well, score one for Curtis Ponzi (*Letters*, 11/23) for finding a study indicating that AZT/ddI reduces viral load in the lymph nodes. But one question: since these drugs are universally suppressive of cellular immunity, and since AIDS is fundamentally a cellular-immune disorder, what is the net outcome of using nucleosides? The rationale of the "Nukes-R-Us" crowd seems like burning down the barn to get rid of the cockroaches. Since the entire antiretroviral approach has failed thus far in terms of arresting or prophylaxing the disease, isn't it time to consider looking for non-toxic cellular-immune therapies - to support the body in regaining its own antiviral competence?

Bill Sheppard
San Francisco

Disabilities

Regarding Mr. Steven M. Kolesar's letter in the *B.A.R.* (November 16), speaking about the "Disabled Parking Privileges."

When people think of disabilities they do not think with their brain, they think with their eyes. You have no cane, walker, wheelchair. You have no oxygen tank, guide dog, and you still have your two arms and two legs.

All disabilities do not show on the outside of the body. Pain, heart problems, emphysema and Mr. Kolesar's fatigue from AIDS are among other things that people can not see with their eyes.

I have not yet been approached by anyone yet, regarding my recently acquired handicapped sticker. I am six feet, and on occasion have a smile and a bounce in my step. One would never know, on a good day, that there is anything wrong with my physical body.

I was told, as Mr. Kolesar said, that if I am ever asked about my placard to tell the individual that it was between my Doctor, myself, and the State of California and that I do not have to explain my self to anyone.

Yes! People can be rude, thoughtless and inconsiderate. If I have a sticker, then I have it for a reason, and yes, it does make my life a little easier. I still park at a meter instead of a handicap space as I know people like Mr. Kolesar, those with wheelchairs, crutches, walkers and those mentioned above need it more than I do at this time. Later in my life I will need to use it more so than now.

Vernon Link
San Francisco

Porno pits

For several years, I have patronized S.F.'s gay porno theaters. However, I have a complaint about a particular theater on Eddy St. in the Tenderloin. This once-vibrant, cruisy theater has reached the pits to the point of deterioration. Let me elaborate.

After paying the ridiculous admission of \$7.50, one can look forward to sitting on broken, uncomfortable chairs. Also, the "No Smoking" signs are a joke as I watch a group of suspicious-looking individuals gathered on the rear lounge stairwell, smoking, talking loud, engaged in risky sex behavior and being just plain obnoxious.

Complaining to the front room video projectionist is useless for his attitude gives one the impression of "If you don't like it, go somewhere else."

Having to go to the men's rooms (there are two) can be a scary experience. These places are usually in total darkness and suddenly one is groped by unwelcome strange hands with dishonest intentions to pick your pockets for a wallet. I have seen these same individuals hanging out in the rear lounge the few times I have attended this theater.

The live entertainment of naked dancers on stage is pathetically and insufferably mediocre. The stupid and repetitious music (I call it "noise") assaulting one's ears might be comprehensible only to those who are under the influence of some chemical substance (drugs). Sometimes the smell of pot and poppers permeates the air to the point of sickness. The naked dancers resemble fugitives from an AIDS ward, which encourages many patrons to make a speedy dash to the rear lounge and wait until the "show" is over.

Sometimes, in the middle of a film, the screen in the main room, as well as in the rear lounge TV sets, go blank for long periods. Forget about telling the video projectionist who is busy chatting with his buddies in the front box office, or else yapping away on the phone as if to indicate he'll turn the picture back on when he is good and ready.

Moreover, the ceiling in the main room is in disrepair and the hot water in the men's room sinks is non-existent.

To pay the rip-off admission of \$7.50, for the privilege of being subject to this cesspool of garbage, is more than one can take.

Name withheld upon request
San Francisco

[Actually, we think the projectionist may have the right idea. Only by going someplace else, and spending your money there, will you provide incentive for change.]

Breaking up is hard to do

This letter is in response to Gert McMullin's letter in the November 23rd issue of the *B.A.R.*

The separation of any Pleasuredome employee is always a painful and delicate matter, especially one as well respected and valued as Jerry Bonham.

Ty Dakota
Pleasuredome

Presidential Preview

With the first presidential primary in New Hampshire less than three months away, the lineup of would-be presidents appears to have pretty much shaken out to Democratic incumbent President Bill Clinton or Republican Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole. When House Speaker Newt Gingrich officially bowed out of a White House run recently, the presidential field, which had shrunk considerably with Colin Powell's announcement that he would not be a candidate, narrowed even more.

Commentary

Although Texas Senator Phil Gramm, former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, millionaire publisher Steve Forbes, and right-wing commentator Patrick Buchanan are among those looking for an opening that will put them in a race for the August nomination with Dole, that window of opportunity, barring a calamity by the cautious Kansas senator, is not likely to materialize. Dole is working hard to create the impression that his nomination is all but inevitable, and indeed, most king-makers of both major parties would likely agree with him.

Dole is picking up important political support daily, and by the end of this month, he will likely have the endorsement of nearly all the nation's 30 Republican governors. Though there is, to be sure, considerable grumbling within the ranks of the party over the general quality of the GOP field and being forced to campaign for the aging 71-year-old Dole, his nomination does look like a lock.

Ross Perot's Reform Party will certainly run a candidate, probably the charisma-challenged Perot himself, to the consternation of the Republicans and smiles from the Clinton White House. And after Powell's declaration, Democrat Jesse Jackson said he was mulling over an independent bid — which produced something other than smiles from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. However, even with these two considerations, November 1996 is beginning to shape up — again barring any unforeseen disaster — as a Clinton-Dole slugfest (with Perot perhaps once again playing the "spoiler" role for the Republicans).

A possible wild card in all this is the group of seven well-known political figures, including retiring New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley, and former Democratic presidential candidates Paul Tsongas and Gary Hart, who have reportedly been talking about the possibility of backing an independent bid by an as yet unnamed candidate. The group, however, is seen as more likely to try to shape other 1996 campaigns with their stands on



Mud will be slung: Frank Jordan and Willie Brown (obscured by branch) help plant trees at the AIDS Memorial Grove on World AIDS Day.

various issues.

As it stands now, Hillary and Bill may well have four more years in D.C. before a return to Arkansas. Unless, as suspected by some, Bob Dole has already talked Colin Powell into being his running mate. Then it could easily be a whole new ball game, Ross or no Ross.

Politics and people

In Sacramento the rumors are getting stronger that if popular Senator Dianne Feinstein decides against running for governor in '98 (and the pressure on her is already building), Controller Kathleen Connell is just waiting to take on Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis for the nomination.

Although name identification still makes him a slight favorite, analysts now say that Republican Tom Campbell might be in for an upset in next Tuesday's special 15th Congressional District (Santa Clara area) election. Democrat Jerry Estruth has gained some ground by bashing Campbell because of his closeness with GOP House Speaker Newt Gingrich when he served in the House.

Meanwhile, the dynamic Angela Alioto, who always has something on her mind and her lips, can be expected to give perennial politician John Burton a helluva run for his money in March for the Democratic nomination for the Third District state senate seat, being vacated by the retiring Milton Marks. The district is made up of a large part of San Francisco, all of Marin County and a small portion of Sonoma County. From where I sit (and I do live in the district), this one is easy! Angela, send me a house sign pronto!

Cabaret chanteuse Weslea Whitfield and jazz singer Paula West will perform at a party for

judicial candidate Kay Tsenin this Monday, December 11 at 7 p.m. at the Plush Room. Call (415) 668-0410 for the few seats that may still remain.

In Massachusetts, GOP Governor William Weld, often recognized as the most "pro-gay" governor in the country, is already lining up gays and lesbians, Republicans and Democrats alike, for his bid against incumbent U.S. Senator John Kerry next year.

Marin Sheriff Charles Prandi announced that after 13 years in the job, he will resign after the first of the year. The board of supes there is expected to appoint Undersheriff Robert Doyle to fill out his term.

Wyoming U.S. Senator Alan Simpson last week became the 12th senator to announce their retirement next year, with most of them blaming the increasingly partisan and bitter atmosphere of the Senate, where the art of compromise has seemingly been lost to history, for their leaving. "I've never seen it [the partisanship] this ribald," said Senator Dianne Feinstein, who came to the Senate in 1992. "At my stage of life, this makes problem-solving very unpleasant," the 62-year-old politico said last week, adding that "no matter what anybody does, if they are of the opposite party, they are going to get criticized. And that's wrong."

My Quote of the Week is from Colorado's liberal, pro-gay Representative Pat Schroeder, whose announcement of her retirement last week was dubbed "an early Christmas gift" by talk show "wit" Rush Limbaugh: "I'm alive and well," Schroeder said, "and willing to take that big bag of air on anywhere." Now there's a balloon that could use some puncturing!

Oh, yes, Tuesday, December 12, is *once again* election day. Vote as you please, but please, do vote. ▼



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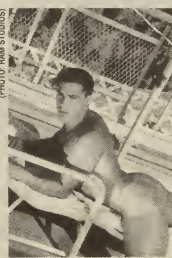
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SAPPHISTICATION

I, A Slut

by Beth Elliott

She did indeed smile when she said that: "You hot little slut!" I took it as a compliment. And even were I inclined to take offense, doing so would have been difficult — at the moment, I was arching my back like a crazed minx. (And I like arching my back like a crazed minx.)

I knew she was using a supposed pejorative in a blatantly facetious way. She was saying I was a delight to have sex with because I responded so passionately and enthusiastically, because I make no apologies for liking good sex. But since I'm incorrigibly curious, and my intellect chugs along regardless of my conscious direc-

tion, I noticed myself wondering just what, by current lesbian standards, makes one a "slut." There are such standards, believe me.

I have no problem with women linking sex to intimacy, since little is more intimate. I find sex very more a total person-to-person connection than just a body-to-body connection, even when the persons involved are pretty much passing in the night. As much as I like waking up next to a woman who's hotter than a cheap toaster oven, I dread the thought of waking up next to a woman with the IQ of a cheap toaster oven. Now, does holding out for quality mean I'm not a slut? Not according to attitudes I see out there among lesbians.

Sluts of yore

The old definition of a slut, meaning the pre-sexual revolution heterosexual definition, was a woman who had sex without being (or intending to get) married. You know, the old good-girl, bad-girl thing. One would think that lesbians, who have had the opportunity to see through the sexism of that old system, would choose to act from a more highly developed and nuanced set of values instead of one-rule-fits-all thinking.

Commentary

To my thinking, acting intelligently, respecting boundaries and relationships, and respecting individuals rather than exploiting them are key — these things are more important than whether a particular instance of lovemaking is tied to an ongoing relationship or not. I've known and encountered a number of women in my life with whom I've shared a great deal of appreciation, affection and respect. It's made a great deal of sense to me that these are the women I should be having sex with, even though committing to relationships with them might neither be possible nor advised. Some of them have lived other places, or had life goals that were different from mine; still, we were excited about each other as really fantastic, creative individuals of heart, mind and soul. And that, I think, is woman-to-woman passion at its finest.

By some standards, though, acting on this attraction made us sluts. There are women who believe if you sleep with another woman you've made a tentative commitment to a relationship. Women who believe it's wrong to be sexually involved with more than one woman at a time, even if you're just dating. (Some of these, however, have been known to make exceptions for ex-lovers willing to play human vibrator.)

I have a friend who once scored big time with a personal ad: five women she wanted to date and with whom she had sexual chemistry. Each of the five told her, independently, after one date, that if they ended up in the sack, she would expect my friend not to sleep with any of the others.

My friend's point of view was that decisions about committing to sexual monogamy after two dates

would be somewhat premature. She saw dating as a process of meeting new women, having fun times with them and getting better acquainted, seeing if emotional bonding occurred and to what extent, and deciding whether someone with whom she was bonding would make an appropriate partner. (Your basic definition, or what?) To her, sex could be part of a good time with a woman whose company she enjoyed, and sexual compatibility was one of the things she wanted to be sure she had with a potential partner.

How was she supposed to know if she wanted to agree to sexual exclusivity with any of them if she had to commit to it with the first woman she wound up with in bed? What if she liked them all? What if she missed getting involved with a woman who was really right for her, settling instead for someone who seemed right enough at first, because of the random nature of calendar roulette?

Necessary evil

As fate would have it, all five missed out on a woman I think is a catch (as does the lover she eventually found). These women missed out because they held a belief I recognize from my Catholic upbringing: sex is not a positive thing in itself, but a necessary evil justifiable only in the context of a committed relationship.

Now, I agree that lovemaking is something very special, and there's no feeling of being a fool like regretting a sexual choice after the fact. Nonetheless, I believe sex is a good and happy thing; whether it's uplifting or tawdry depends on the motives and interactions of the people it's between (or among), relationship or no. To paraphrase a prep school cliché, you get out of this sex what you put into it. Consenting adults don't get to show nobody no stinkin' badges.

This particular night, I was arching my back like a crazed minx for a friend who, as it turned out, had been hot for my body for some time. I liked and trusted her; she respected and cared for me, and turned out to be great in bed. So, I threw myself enthusiastically into having a great time. Oh, happy happy, joy joy. If I ever feel guilty about something like this, I trust my friends to take me out and slap me silly till I come to my senses. If this makes me a slut, I just hope I'm a really good one. ▼

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Room Available in Women's Health Initiative

by Mary Ann Swissler

Medical researchers are still looking for lesbians over the age of 55 to study, as part of the first long-range study of women's health ever conducted in this country.

The Women's Health Initiative is an unprecedented systematic effort to expand upon generations of medical research conducted almost exclusively on men. The National Institute of Health-sponsored project has been recruiting women between the ages of 50 and 79 since March 1995 at centers throughout the United States, including three in Northern California: in Oakland, San Jose, and Sacramento.

Karen Riggs, Recruitment Coordinator with the Women's Health Initiative at the Stanford Clinic in San Jose, explained that participants will then be chosen to follow a specific research track: overall health, diet, or estrogen replacement.

The lesbian question is reserved for the last part of the questionnaire process, and was the di-

rect result of lobbying by lesbian health advocates. For privacy reasons, the number of women claiming female partners could not be disclosed at this time.

Riggs told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "We really still need a lot of women. We have a goal right now of having 3,600, and have actually enrolled only 400" at the San Jose center. "We have had an overwhelming response from women between 50-55, but we've had a real problem recruiting women over 55."

Riggs said this is a golden opportunity to document health conditions of older women and the best courses of treatment. "Overall it's going really well," she said, "but we still need women to enroll to find answers about their health and their healthcare needs. If people don't join the WHI we'll never know." ▼

For more information and to enroll at a nearby center call 1-800-54-WOMEN.

Wide World O' Women Wraps

SF's Only Homegrown Lesbian TV Show Signs Off

by Mary Ann Swissler

It was a wrap Saturday night as San Francisco's only indigenous lesbian talk and entertainment show, *Susan Kay's Wide World O' Women*, said good-bye to the city's airwaves in its monthly broadcast from Channel 53 City Vision. The one-hour show, which aired 8 p.m. one Saturday a month, was also broadcast in Madison, Wisconsin.

"I'm celebrating the fact that I've been able to do this for 14 months and I'm still in one piece," said a proud and exuberant—but somewhat exhausted—Susan Kay Gilbert. She credited City Vision's commitment to providing studio equipment and training for anyone in the community who has an interest in TV, but very little information about carrying their ideas through to airtime.

As executive producer, Gilbert was also in charge of lining up the talent behind the cameras, a matter of pride for the self-identified lesbian separatist. "I've never had a man touch any of my equipment," she reported, the point being that the show served as proving grounds for women to gain the technical experience needed in order to move on to professional jobs. The 34-year-old Bay Area native added that she would be happy to discuss the magic of television and what it takes to get a show broadcast through City Visions.

A graduate of the San Francisco State University drama department, Gilbert said she has been able to build on her thespian abilities and interest in broadcasting since beginning the show in February 1994. She brought a rare combination of no-nonsense feminism, bold comedic one-liners, and an innate sense of pacing that is welcome to any staged show.

Her overriding concern, she said, was to increase visibility, "to bring women who have traditionally been relegated to the periphery of mainstream television into primary focus." Guests have included lesbians from all walks of life including Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, Sylvia Weisenberg of the Community United Against Violence, Page Hodel, and many representatives from lesbian publishing, civil rights groups, and the arts.

The last show included one of the original guests, Lenore Chin, who—along with another rising San Francisco star, Kenya Briggs—presented Gilbert with a certifi-

cate of appreciation from the show's primary sponsor, the Women's Building.

Singer songwriter Deborah Pardés performed on the last episode, and Club Ecstasy's Kitakka Gara described the new concept in lesbian clubs (i.e., clothing optional) she unveiled in 1993.

Now that her eponymous show has come to a close, Gilbert said she hopes commercial producers will cozy up to this idea of her talents as well, but she is also realistic about the lack of opportunities for open lesbians like herself.

Still, Kay said she has her sights set on a professional career, and in the meantime supplements her income by "fighting crime" as a security guard in Opera Plaza, as a traffic school instructor, and cat-sitter. ▼

For more information on how to put together your own television show, call Randall at City Visions (415) 252-6325. Susan Kay Gilbert can be reached at (415) 928-4179.



All smiles: Susan Kay Gilbert (left) shares a laugh with guest Deborah Pardés.

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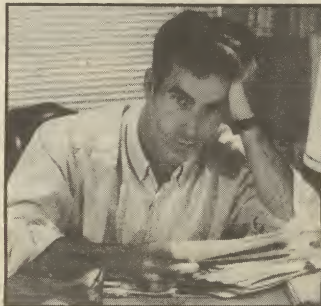
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Lavender Seniors Set To Party

The Alameda County Lavender Seniors will hold a Winter Holiday Celebration on Thursday, December 9 at 1 p.m. at the San Leandro Community Church, located at 1395 Bancroft Avenue in the city of San Leandro.

Ina M. Murri, who co-founded the club with her partner Stella Lopez-Armijo, said that the potluck holiday party is also a one-year anniversary for the Lavender Seniors. The party is open to all denominations. "We have people who are Jewish, people who are Christian, and people who are atheist," said Murri.

In addition to a potluck, each participant is asked to take part in a gift exchange with a \$5 limit.

— by Mary Ann Swissler

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GLAAD

CBS 86s PSA

Continued from page 1

PSA. Unfortunately, the CDC bowed to conservative pressures even before the new campaign was launched, and included three television and one radio "Abstinence" PSAs. In these less-sophisticated and much less-genuine spots, young adults parrot familiar rhetoric: "The safest form of sex is no sex," and "The next time I will have sex will be when I get married."

Already anticipating resistance, the CDC and the Department of Health & Human Services have called for the public to "promote the ads in your community and encourage local television and radio stations to air the PSAs."

Support the CDC's decision to release gay-specific PSAs, a move bound to rattle the Congress of Helms and Gingrich; encourage the CDC to move further forward, developing campaigns that more forcefully and directly combat homophobia. Contact: CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 6003, Rockville, MD 20849-6003, tel. 800-458-5231.

Also, encourage the networks to do the right thing, and air the "gay spot" regularly and prominently. Contact: Rolanda Lira, Community Affairs Dept., CBS, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90036, tel. 213-852-2345; Teresa Samaniego, Director of Public Affairs, ABC, 4151 Prospect Ave., Los Angeles CA 90027, tel. 301-557-4720, fax 310-557-5975; Viewer Services, NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York NY 10112, tel. 212-664-3370; Fox Broadcasting, tel. 212-556-2400.

Finally, congratulate BAY-TV's early - and public - commitment to specifically airing the young gay men's PSA. Con-

tact BAY-TV, fax 415-561-8745.

Sexual stupidity

The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SEICUS) celebrated its 31st anniversary this year. The organization's mission, as articulated in 1964, seeks "to establish human sexuality as a healthy entity ... to dignify it by openness of approach ... designed to lead toward its understanding and its freedom from exploitation. ..." Because SEICUS promotes comprehensive (and non-homophobic) sex education, the organization and its publications have become a favorite target for exploitation by the "Religious" Right.

A recent fundraising campaign by the "Concerned Women for America" (CWA), which bills itself as "the nation's largest pro-family women's organization," attacks sex education in general and SEICUS in particular. The CWA mailer features a photo of a young schoolgirl under the banner headline: "I don't want her robbed of her innocence. Do you?" Inside the envelope CWA members are told that SEICUS is "the main source of sex education materials adopted by the U.S. Department of Education." Readers are told that SEICUS pushes an evil agenda, advocating that children be taught these horrors: "Some men and women are homosexual," "Homosexuals are also known as gay men and lesbian women," and "Some couples who love each other live together in the same home without getting married."

CWA president Beverly LaHaye also tells her members: "Imagine! Innocent children of five or six years of age being told homosexuality is normal. ... Young hearts and minds not ready for such information. ... *This Is Wrong!*" LaHaye encourages her members to lobby local school boards to adopt "pro-family sex instruction" that teaches only "heterosexual sex between man and woman" and "pre-marital abstinence." Moreover, she encourages her members to fight "anti-family sex instruction" that teaches children the "importance of self and desires," "homosexuality/bisexuality [as] normal," "sex is 'safe' with condoms," and "all options are equal in value."

Two "petitions of protest" are included in the CWA mailing. One is directed to Debra Haffner, the executive director of SEICUS. The other is directed to each CWA member's congressperson. The congressional petition states: "Because you are my Representative in Congress, I am petitioning you today to investigate if the Sex Information and Education Council of the United States (SEICUS) receives any federal or state funds, either directly or indirectly. I am outraged at the sex education agenda SEICUS wants to force on every child and school in America. ... No child should be made to participate in SEICUS-designed programs that blatantly promote promiscuity, homosexuality, masturbation, abortion, incest, and pedophilia. Please let me know in writing what you will be doing in our district and in Congress to protect our children from SEICUS's influence."

What the greedy LaHaye conveniently ignores is that - all across the United States - it is common for school districts to allow parents to "opt out" their children from any sex education course, and most textbooks still promote homophobia. To suggest that SEICUS guidelines encourage pedophilia or incest is also a fabrication, betraying the fact the LaHaye is less interested in the truth than she is making money off her members' fears.

LaHaye announces that she will be sending a copy of a new CWA publication, *School Administrator Sex Education Report*, to

school districts throughout the country, to alert public officials and "stop this blatantly evil and perverse indoctrination of innocent, unsuspecting children."

SEICUS has also come under attack from the homophobes at "Focus on the Family" (FOF). FOF's Ron Reno recently published a "research" paper entitled "SEICUS: You Won't Believe What They Want to Teach Your Kids." FOF has been circulating a racist and sex-negative video *Sex, Lies & ... The Truth*, which the organization claims "has been used in more than 10,000 public schools."

Write your Representative in the U.S. Congress, urging rejection of the CWA's efforts to promote ignorance and hate; copy your correspondence to SEICUS. Also, encourage your local school board to adopt the sort of curriculum outlined in the 1991 SEICUS publication, *Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education: Kindergarten - 12th Grade*. Finally, arm yourself with information about SEICUS and its many worthy projects. Contact SEICUS, 130 West 42nd Street, Suite 350, New York NY 10036-7802, tel. 212-819-9770, fax 212-819-9776.

Additional resources are available from the Coalition for Positive Sexuality (CPS), which has published a pro-sex, pro-queer pamphlet for distribution to teens. Contact CPS, 3712 N. Broadway, # 191, Chicago IL 60613, tel. 312-604-1654, e-mail cps@positive.org, URL <http://www.positive.org-cps>.

For information from and about the homophobes and their efforts to censor fair and factual textbooks, request a free copy of *Concerns About Public Education* (item FX345) from Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs CO 80995, tel. 800-A-FAMILY.

Media Briefs

• **GETTING CONNECTED ...** *Making Contact* is a new, nationwide, progressive radio series designed to "give listeners information they need to take action." Recent programs have addressed "Hate Radio," "The Political and Religious Right," and "Homophobia in America." Encourage your local broadcast outlets to carry this vital series, which is available free to all public radio stations.

For a catalog of taped programs, as well as more information about the series and how you can support it, contact: *Making Contact*, National Radio Project, 830 Los Trancos Road, Portola Valley CA 94028, tel. 415-851-7256, fax 415-851-0731, e-mail contact@igc.apc.org.

• **WHAT A TRIP ...** San Francisco's two dailies, the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner*, have begun publication of the first lesbian and gay travel directory to appear in a major metropolitan newspaper. The new feature was inaugurated by Carl Dyson, an openly gay employee of the San Francisco Newspaper Agency. According to Dyson, "the process of getting the idea to print was a challenge," but the new feature fulfills his "vision of promoting 'travel with pride' amongst the worldwide community of gays and lesbians." "Travel With Pride" appears Tuesdays in the *Chronicle* and *Examiner*, and in the combined Sunday edition as well. Contact Carl Dyson, San Francisco Newspaper Agency, 925 Mission Street, San Francisco CA 94103, tel. 415-777-7378, fax 415-543-3897. ▼

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco CA 94103, tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail gladsfba@aol.com, URL <http://www.gaytrek.com/gaytrek/glaad.html>.

Vsf Opens Its Arms to San Francisco

Club To Be Available for Community Use

by Hakeem Oseni II

What do you do if you're a 30-year-old millionaire who can't find the perfect club to hang out in? Open your own.

Last weekend, Tony Siress did just that. His vision of what lesbian and gay San Franciscans wanted in a new night spot is Vsf, a consistently gay, smoke-free, exquisitely decorated bar and nightclub located at 11th Street and Folsom.

"This is not designed to fill someone's pocket. This is my gift to San Francisco's gay and lesbian community," Siress told the *Bay Area Reporter*, adding that all club employees receive full benefits, including coverage for domestic partners.

In addition to Vsf's unique status as San Francisco's first non-smoking club (smoking is allowed on the roof), according to General Manager Gerard O'Brien, "the space is available for non-profit organizations to use for fundraising purposes." He added that things are very "on-track" and he is happy with the way things went at the weekend's opening parties.

"It's exactly what San Francisco needs," said Jay Odel, one of the customers lounging in the club's semi-circular custom-made oxblood leather booths. "It's intimate, there's seating, it's got style - it makes you relate to the people more."

"We are going to open our arms to the whole community," special events coordinator and

community liaison Kurt Barrie promised. He also mentioned that projects under development included a free shuttle service, a coffee/espresso bar, and a "Community Wall" with resources and services listed on it.

According to Siress, "Our commitment is to the community, creating a lesbian and gay club with the friendliest, most professional service available."

And, he might have added, striking decor. Once patrons are inside the door they are immersed in art, from the nearly ceiling-high commanding sofa at the end of the first bar to the intensely spaced-out ambient lighting on the dance floor. Designer Michael Brennan has attended to every aspect of the place; watch out for the Ultra-violet Room, where 3-D glasses will set patrons in another dimension.

"It looks like a place I could bring my parents," one impressed patron said. ▼



Vsf's Tony Siress.

Photo: Jane Philomena O'Neil

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WARNING!

Queers for Affirmative Action To Meet Election Night

The 15-member San Francisco group that calls itself Queers For Affirmative Action has announced a meeting December 12, the same night as the mayoral/district attorney runoff elections.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at New College, located at 777 Valencia Street. Members will discuss efforts to stop the so-called Civil Rights Initiative that would roll back affirmative action, and to stem the tide of ignorance that has propelled it to a ballot initiative in the statewide election next November.

The group is just getting off the ground, member Tommi Aviccoli Mecca told the *B.A.R.*, but already they have leafleted the Folsom Street and Castro Street fairs about the connections between gay rights and affirmative action; handed out stickers on Coming Out Day; and attended University of California regents meetings when affirmative action was debated and then lost.

QAA's most ambitious project by far is to gather signatures for California for Justice, the group that is lobbying to keep affirmative action in the state.

"We've been fairly visible, even though we're a small group," Mecca said.

- Mary Ann Swissler

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- ✓ Democratic Women's Forum

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Bill Fazio: The B.A.R. Interview

by Mary Ann Swissler

District Attorney candidate Bill Fazio entered the three-way race last summer as a dark horse, only to become the top vote-getter over his former boss, Arlo Smith.

Fazio spoke with the *Bay Area Reporter* about his strategy for the last week of campaigning before the December 12 run-off election against Supervisor Terence Hallinan.

"I'm trying to be certain that people who voted for me last time come out and vote for me again," he said. "I'm trying to be certain that the people who supported Arlo Smith last time, overwhelmingly support me this time." Smith has endorsed Hallinan, although Fazio maintains that "not one [county] prosecutor supports Hallinan."

Fazio maintains an air of confidence, despite recent unflattering press portrayals, including a scathing three-part article in the *San Francisco Independent* about Fazio's questionable plea bargains, and a report in the *Examiner* that he has been driving on a suspended license.

Despite the charges, Fazio has received endorsements from the *Chronicle*, the Police Officers Association, Sheriff Mike Hennessey, and five former city police chiefs, among others.

The license was an unfortunate oversight, Fazio told the *B.A.R.*

When he discussed his record of plea bargaining, he was less charitable to his accusers, including Smith — who has said Fazio's requests were the highest by ratio of any other prosecutors in the office.

"If I had done something wrong I would have been reprimanded," Fazio told the *B.A.R.* The District Attorney's office responded that prosecutors are given sufficient leeway to try their own cases.

Fazio added that before exiting the Hall of Justice he checked his personnel file, compiled over the past 20 years, and said there was not a single warning letter about his conduct or decisions made while he was a prosecutor.

"If the things they said were true, I probably would have been indicted — rather than never, ever, ever having been disciplined by my supervisors. It's nonsense, it's really not deserving of a response."

"I think the *Independent* is paying back Supervisor Hallinan."

The Willingham Case

Still, disturbing questions were

raised about a plea bargain offered to 34-year-old Willie Willingham, who was released this week from the California Men's Facility at Vacaville after serving 11 years for the strangulation deaths of two elderly gay men. Willingham's criminal and psychotic behavior began at the age of four, when he started a fire that killed his infant brother, and continued into adulthood with forcible rape and property crime arrests. Fazio arranged the plea bargain for the killings of the two gay men in 1984, which involved Willingham pleading guilty to manslaughter as well as a 1981 rape.

"Sometimes plea bargains are the toughest ways we can deal with a criminal," said Fazio, who began trying murder cases in 1981.

During a jury trial, he said, a defendant might be convicted of just a few of the charges filed by the District Attorney's office, or none at all, resulting in less jail time than if he had gone through the plea bargain process.

Fazio said he is concerned about crimes committed against gay men and lesbians, and would institute a hate crimes division that was staffed with two full-time attorneys. The current Hate Crimes Unit Chief Chuck Haines, Fazio said, is also saddled with adjudicating the entire range of sex crimes in the city.

"I think there will be enough crimes — unfortunately," to justify



Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

Bill Fazio: "If I had done something wrong, I would have been reprimanded."

the presence of two full-time prosecutors, he said.

Fazio also said he would offer community watchdog agencies like Community United Against

Violence more integral advisors to combat and prosecute the scope of hate crimes. Currently, he said, the groups serve as statistical gathering devices and little else. ▼

Cliff Wilson Memorial Friday

by Mary Ann Swissler

AIDS-related complications claimed the life of East Bay AIDS activist Cliff Wilson on Wednesday, November 29, at the age of 49.

Last month Wilson received Alameda County's 1995 Community Services Award for his work in bringing AIDS housing to the city of San Lorenzo, located in the southern part of the county. Additionally, Wilson was an active member of the AIDS Advisory Board, Ryan White Title I Planning Council, and the Ryan White Title II Consortium.

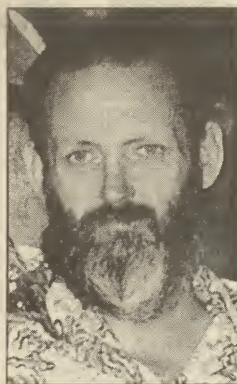
Despite his declining health throughout 1994 and 1995, Wilson BARTed from his home in Hayward to the city of Berkeley numerous times to lobby for Rose Street house for AIDS patients. The project's backer, Resources

for Community Development, later honored Wilson for his efforts on both projects.

Even more, Wilson brought a sense of urgency and compassion to issues facing East Bay people with AIDS, many of whom lack the resources located in San Francisco. "People around here are in denial. There are 600 to 800 people living with AIDS in South County — 100 in Hayward alone," he said during last month's award ceremony.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, December 8 at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, located at Via Toledo and Hacienda in the city of San Lorenzo. ▼

Any burial donations should be sent to: Mission: AIDS, P.O. Box 1733, Fremont CA 94538.

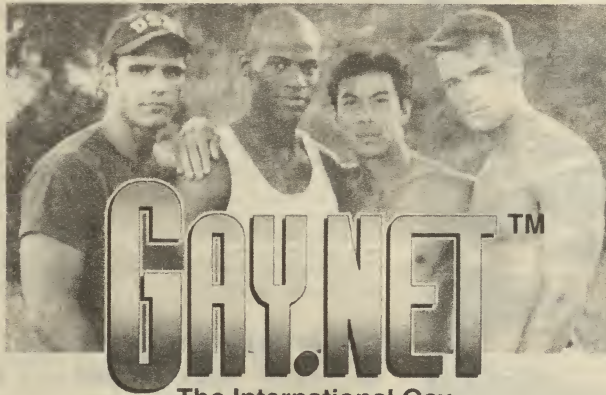


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Terence Hallinan: The B.A.R. Interview

by Dennis Conkin

One of the first things Supervisor and former mayoral candidate Terence Hallinan says he will do if he's elected District Attorney is reorganize the administrative structure of the office, which now has 118 attorneys.

"I've been critical of the administration of the DA's office since the days I practiced in its criminal courts," Hallinan told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I didn't think it was well run. Each division was a world of its own and the way the office was structured isolated Arlo

who uses the office to prosecute crime but also can take a leadership role to help prevent crime," he said.

Hallinan says that his priorities as a District Attorney will include tough prosecution on violent crimes such as assault, rape, domestic violence crimes against women, and anti-gay hate crimes.

"Hate crimes against lesbians and gays and transgenders are a serious problem in San Francisco, because people are so open and it does result in bashings," he said.

In addition to strengthening the DA's Hate Crimes prosecution unit, he also says that some crimes

every opportunity to break their cycle of crime.

Hallinan also calls for an overhaul of the city's beleaguered juvenile justice system — and says that a proactive approach by the District Attorney should stress prevention, as well as punishment, for youth crime.

"Are you aware that the District Attorney does not do probation violations at Youth Guidance Center?" he asked. He favors revoking probation of youth offenders who violate its terms, are truant from school, or fail to participate in rehabilitation or substance abuse or other required treatment programs, until whatever problem that's causing the violation is identified, addressed and resolved.

But, Hallinan also stressed, there must be adequate support services and follow up for the 3,000 youth referred to the city's Youth Guidance Center yearly who are usually released in three weeks — with no services or follow-up.

Out of court

Hallinan told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he has settled a wrongful termination case brought by a former aide who also charged she had been sexually harassed by the Supervisor, saying the small out of court settlement was to resolve the issue of possible wrongful termi-

nation. The case has not affected the support he has received from women, and women's groups.

"I am endorsed by the National Organization of Women and the Democratic Women's Forum," Hallinan said.

Acknowledging that he is in a bruising race for the post with veteran prosecutor Bill Fazio, Hallinan said that a month ago he would have said the basic difference between him and Fazio was that until his opponent was terminated by Smith, Fazio was a "ca-

reer government employee with no administrative experience who would make no changes in the District Attorney's office and would do none of the outreach to prevent crime as well as prosecute it."

But given recent allegations of poor prosecutorial performance and possible misconduct by Fazio aired in the *San Francisco Independent* and the *San Francisco Examiner*, Hallinan now says the major difference between the candidates "is one of character." ▼

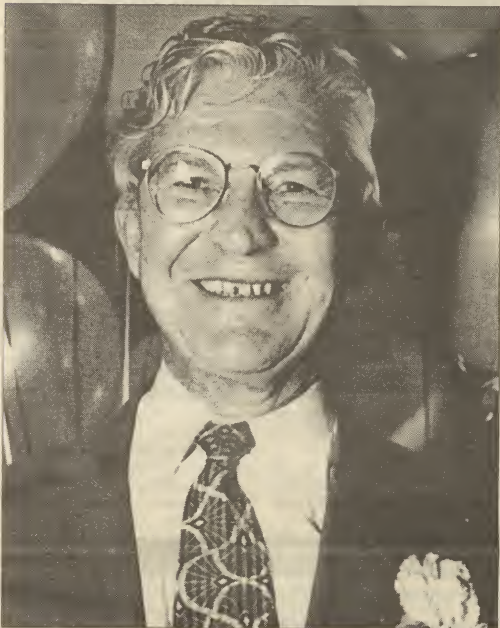


Photo: Jane Phibbs/Cleland

DA candidate Terence Hallinan: "Hate crimes against lesbians and gays and transgenders are a serious problem in San Francisco, because people are so open and it does result in bashings."

Smith," the current District Attorney.

Hallinan said that by reorganizing the department and eliminating the buffers between the District Attorney and his staff of prosecutors, the department could be streamlined to run more efficiently — and effectively prosecute criminals.

"There's deadwood all over the place," Hallinan told the *B.A.R.* "Are you aware that 47 of the attorneys make \$98,000 a year — and 27 make more than \$100,000 a year? Alameda County has a third the number of attorneys," he said.

While Smith was criticized because he never personally prosecuted a case during his 16 years in office, Hallinan told the *B.A.R.* he would be a constant presence throughout the Hall of Justice and the courts.

"The job of the District Attorney is not really to try cases but to administrate, but I will try a representative number of cases, particularly crimes such as murder and rape," Hallinan said.

"I plan to be in court every day and meeting with the Assistant District Attorneys to see what's going on," he said.

Tough and smart

With a long track record as a criminal defense lawyer, Hallinan says that he would also use the office in a proactive manner — something he said Smith never did.

"San Francisco needs a District Attorney who both tough on crime and smart on crime, and

against women — such as stalking — are hate crimes based on gender, and hate crimes statutes should be used when such offenses are prosecuted.

Hallinan also said he would be a tough rape crimes prosecutor and said that he preferred "vertical prosecution," where a team is assigned to each case, so victims would not continually have to recount their story and the rape prosecution would not be disorganized and inadequate.

"The District Attorney's office has lost five high profile rape cases during the last six months due to improper charging and prosecution," Hallinan pointed out in campaign material. "As District Attorney, I will properly charge and prosecute rape cases so that victims do not get violated twice."

Crime and rehabilitation

Hallinan also says that crime prevention and offender rehabilitation services are part of the criminal justice continuum, and should be utilized when appropriate.

Rapists and other offenders who are to be released from prison need more than punishment, Hallinan says, and those offenders who can be rehabilitated after their prison terms should receive appropriate treatment.

"I will also fight for funding for the Center For Special Problems, the city's nationally acclaimed sex offender treatment programs, so that those offenders who can be rehabilitated have

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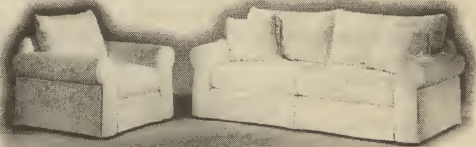
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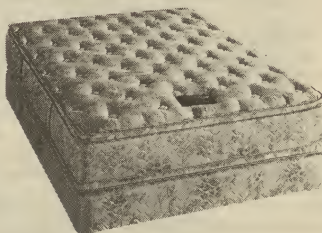


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COMMUNITY NEWS

Former Functioning Addicts Form Tweaker 12-Step Program

by Mary Ann Swissler

There are more than 75 street names for the drug scientists classify as crystal methamphetamine.

Users say they feel 75 times more alive when they use it, and are able to stay up for days at a time. But like a "free lunch," the energy experienced while on crystal doesn't really exist; the payment that comes due for any speed trip carries a weighty price tag for the "tweaker" coming down — and anyone unfortunate enough to be in their range of fire when they do.

San Francisco resident Bill Schade, who recently began Northern California's first 12-step recovery group for crystal addicts, said the level of violence he now sees among crystal users is unprecedented. Schade, 42, told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "When it was pure you rarely saw people out killing each other for it like you do today. I started [in 1967] when I was about 14 and you could get it dirt cheap and it was pure phar-



Bill Schade.

maceutical."

Now, he said, "Essentially what you have is a different drug with similar effects, but you can never be sure of content. And as a result of that, people get sick on it and some have died. You also get a lot more psychoses, a lot more physical reactions to it."

Schade estimated there are "at least" 25,000 crystal addicts suffering in the gay community. Like crack and cocaine addiction booms preceding this one, the crystal epidemic is cutting down gay people in numbers the right wing could only fantasize about. But he added, the high morbidity rate among chronic tweakers often gets lost in statistics kept for related causes of death: car accidents, shootings, or heart attacks.

Quit or die

Schade told the *B.A.R.* that he turned to the 12-step format in desperation: he knew he had to finally quit after decades of living as a functioning addict — or, according to his doctor, die. Schade, who had been living with an HIV positive diagnosis since 1984, had been given five months to live; he

had KS, CMV, and cryptosporidium in connection with his diagnosis, and a deadly craving for meth.

Dr. Boyd Stephens, San Francisco's Chief Medical Examiner, said his office pinned down 58 deaths where methamphetamine was significant or directly caused death, from July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994. [See sidebar, *Speed Kills Now More Than Ever*, this page.]

Another sign of the extent of the problem, said Schade, are the 70 people who showed up by the second meeting of the support group he began, Crystal Meth Anonymous, which meets each Wednesday, from 8:30 to 10 p.m. at 2185 Market Street in San Francisco.

The drug has made the rounds of both gay and straight users since the 1940s, when it was a drug synthesized in U.S. pharmaceutical laboratories, and used by soldiers and factory workers, and later with the first voyages into space. The Beatles said they used it to get through 12-hour sets. Long distance truck drivers still use it.

Police say the many street economics at work explain the current epidemic of crystal use. "The supply from Mexico has exploded and we are seeing the results," said Lieutenant Jim Hall of the San Francisco Police Department's Narcotics Division. He said that dealers get shipments of 100 pounds at a time from across the border, which is further refined into street crystal. "It's an easy drug to make," said Hall. Users have also turned to crystal as a way of turning away from crack, which has earned a reputation for being quickly addictive.

Gantt Galloway, who has been with the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic's Drug Detoxification Rehabilitation and Aftercare Program since 1987, pointed to the 30 fold — or 3,000 percent — jump in inpatient admissions for crystal addicts in the last ten years in California.

But as "John," a gay man in his
Continued on page 26

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CDC Meth Statistics: Speed Kills Now More Than Ever

by Erik Wemple, UPI

Federal health authorities report a sharp increase in deaths related to the drug popularly called crystal, speed, or crank. An estimated 4 million Americans have snorted, injected, or smoked the drug methamphetamine, making it the most widely illegally manufactured, distributed, and abused type of stimulant.

From 1991 to 1994, the number of methamphetamine-related deaths reported by medical examiners nearly tripled from 151 to 433, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in the November 30 edition of its *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. The problem has been particularly acute in large cities in the West and Southwest, including San Francisco.

In the high end, Phoenix recorded a 850 percent spike; San Diego, 238 percent; San Francisco, 144 percent; and Los Angeles, 113 percent. The victims are commonly white males between the ages of 26 and 44. In most — but not all — cases, the crystal was taken in combination with at least one other drug, most often alcohol, heroin, or cocaine.

Abuse of the drug may lead to heart problems, insomnia, muscle tremors, and weight loss. The behavioral and psychiatric symptoms often include paranoia, violent behavior, repetitive activity, memory loss, auditory hallucinations, and confusion or fright. ▼



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WE CAN'T TRUST FRANK JORDAN . . .

. . . because he has tried every year to **cut the Health Department budget for AIDS services** and other vital programs, only to be pressured by the Board of Supervisors to restore the funds. Meanwhile, Willie Brown not only secured the first state AIDS funding in the nation in 1983, he has protected tens of millions of dollars worth of San Francisco health services from Republican budget slashers in Sacramento.

WE CAN'T TRUST FRANK JORDAN . . .

. . . because he **abolished the position of AIDS Policy Advisor** to the Mayor. Willie Brown has pledged to include an AIDS Policy Director at the highest level in the Mayor's Office, placing AIDS care, research and prevention at the top of the City's priorities.

WE CAN'T TRUST FRANK JORDAN . . .

. . . because he has **failed to prevent police misconduct**, either as Police Chief or Mayor, resulting in incidents such as the Castro Sweep and the New Year's Eve AIDS benefit raid. He opposed the proposition voters passed in November to strengthen the Office of Citizens Complaints. Willie Brown supports strengthening the Office of Citizens Complaints and has pledged to appoint a new Police Chief who will not tolerate misconduct.

WE CAN'T TRUST FRANK JORDAN . . .

. . . because he **failed to take a strong stand against anti-gay discrimination** and vetoed legislation withdrawing City funds from the Bank of America when the bank sided with the Boy Scouts in discriminating against gays. Willie Brown has a lifetime history of fighting anti-gay discrimination, including campaigning against Anita Bryant in 1977 and statewide anti-gay ballot initiatives in the 1970s and '80s. As Speaker of the Assembly, Willie Brown stopped the homophobes, resulting in vicious attacks on him from the religious right.

WE CAN'T TRUST FRANK JORDAN . . .

. . . because he **is strongly backed by the Republican Party** of Newt Gingrich and Pete Wilson. (*Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State recently held a Jordan fundraiser for Republican fatcat contributors*). Willie Brown is supported by the Democratic Party, as well as the Harvey Milk and Alice B. Toklas Lesbian & Gay Democratic Clubs, Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action, the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, the *Bay Times* newspaper, and EVERY San Francisco gay and lesbian elected official, past and present.

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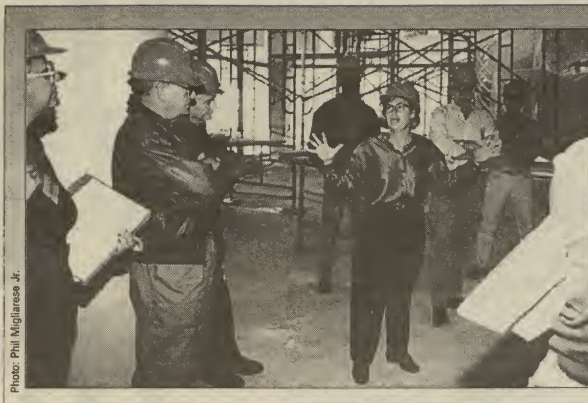
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Dewey Decimal Donors

Sherry Thomas leads a tour of gay financial supporters of the new Main Library on Larkin Street Nov. 30. The library, which features a Gay and Lesbian Center, is still under construction, but is now scheduled to open April 16, 1996.

Alameda County AIDS Office To Reorganize

by Mary Ann Swissler

The Alameda County Public Health Department this week recommended a reorganization of the County Office of AIDS Administration, both to streamline operations and enhance medical direction of the programs.

Public Health Department spokesperson Ramakrishna Ram told the *Bay Area Reporter* the move will strengthen the HIV program, by consolidating different programs that are already working with the same East Bay populations: people with TB, STDs, and HIV/AIDS. Current spending levels are expected to remain the

same, he said.

"There will be a change at the top, but at the program level there will be no change," said Ram. "We are consolidating similar programs: AIDS will be put together with communicable diseases. They will be working with similar programs that have similar etiology."

The Office of AIDS, which now exists as a separate department under Public Health, will become a "unit" within the Communicable Diseases Department and will be run by Dr. Barbara Allen, the department's current director.

Allen captured the attention of AIDS and public health activists

earlier this year when she recommended the establishment of an indoor needle exchange site in Oakland. In an interview with the *B.A.R.* at the time, Allen went one step further by calling for the sites to be part of indoor, community medical centers.

Neither Allen nor Eugene Richards, the current director of the Office of AIDS Administration, were available for comment.

ACT UP/East Bay's John Iversen commented to the *Bay Area Reporter* that it was too early to judge the full effects of such a move. However, he added, "That office seems a little top-heavy in administration." ▼

San Joaquin AIDS Foundation Provides Education and Support

by Dennis Conkin

AIDS education in a central California town with just one gay bar, a lot of closets, and the big city of Sacramento about an hour away can be a unique challenge, according to San Joaquin AIDS Foundation educator Jerry Semas.

An estimated 300 people in San Joaquin County have AIDS, and an estimated 540 people have died of it since 1983, when state epidemiologists began tracking the disease in the county. The cases — and the agency's prevention efforts — are pretty evenly split between gay clients and others high risk groups such as injection

users, but with one exception, Semas told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

He said there are few funded prevention services available that target women.

"There's little accountability for women," he lamented. "We have grant requirements that require so many contacts with preteens and substance abusers, yet we haven't seen any that are sensitive to women's needs or issues."

Semas recently returned to California after a five year absence, during which he worked for AIDS organizations in Massachusetts and Ohio — and even founded a theater company that provided entertaining AIDS education to schools, churches, and other groups in Columbus, Ohio.

'The Stockton Connection'

With just one gay bar in Stockton, where the San Joaquin AIDS Foundation is located, gay community members are prone to isolation, so three years ago the agency formed a social group that meets once a week.

"It's called the Stockton Connection, and it has a mailing list of 55," Semas said. "It provides social opportunities outside of a bar setting."

Sacramento, and its popular bars, are about an hour away from Stockton and other country residents; Semas said that gay community members often prefer to drive the distance rather than run

into a boss or co-worker in the local bar.

The San Joaquin AIDS Foundation is also creating satellite groups in outlying California rural areas such as Lodi, to get the AIDS prevention message out.

Semas also meets regularly with incarcerated youth in a nearby California Youth Authority facility.

"They range from between 18 to 24, and they are interested in and want AIDS education," he told the *B.A.R.* "Actually, we have a better reception with them than with continuation high school kids."

Continuation high school students are usually students suspended or expelled from regular schools because of behavioral or truancy problems.

SJAF provides information and referral, and in addition to prevention and education services, also provides social services and case management to people with AIDS in the county.

Semas said that county residents are eager to keep abreast of statewide and international gay community news, so he and his partner come to San Francisco every week to pick up area papers for the members of the small support group. ▼

For more information about the San Joaquin AIDS Foundation contact Jerry Semas at (209) 476-8533.

Project 10 Face-off Expected Monday

Pastors Challenge Petaluma Program

by John De Salvo

Sonoma County Project 10 wants to provide teachers in the Petaluma School District with the educational tools necessary to handle the sexual identity questions of high school students in a safe environment. A Project 10 presentation at Grant Elementary School on November 14 so impressed the school board that Superintendent Charles Cadman recommended the panel make its presentation to a December 11 meeting of all the school district principals.

Vowing he will "not sit by and allow that to happen," Mormon bishop Curtis Kearl is promising to stop Sonoma County Project 10 from being implemented. He is challenging the legality of the school board institutionalizing "a pro-homosexual ideology in the public schools."

Another Petaluma pastor, Mel Grams of Adobe Christian Center, has submitted a letter signed by the pastors of 12 fundamentalist Christian churches that teach homosexual activity is a sin. The Baptist ministers intend to offer the board an alternative program to "help end the harassment against our children," Grams said.

A different view was taken in the November 16 editorial column of the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, under the heading "Focus on the Kids." While the newspaper acknowledged that the Petaluma board can't resolve the big argument about homosexuality, nor completely wipe out insensitive behavior, "What the schools can do," it wrote, "is what Project 10 ... is requesting: Discourage harassment by making sure teachers understand the difficulties faced by kids whose sexual identity is awakening and is not heterosexual. And designate a staff member at every junior and senior high to be available to teen-agers who want to talk about homosexuality or bisexuality."

The newspaper called for the school board to "rise above the adults' incendiary rhetoric and focus on the needs of the kids."

Tears for Bobby, Robin

Speakers at the November 14 presentation included Mary Griffith, whose story — and the story of her son, who committed suicide as

a gay teen — is told in the Leroy Aarons book *Prayers for Bobby*; Cotati residents Tim and Stephanie Reed, whose son Robin jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge last January; lesbian supervisor candidate and Project 10 spokeswoman Maddy Hirshfield; and gay teens Todd Fay-Long and Krista McAtee.

Following the presentation, 56 members of the audience offered their opinions, 18 of whom spoke in opposition to Project 10. Some, while coming out against any form of harassment, said that existing policies and laws against student harassment were enough and should be more rigidly enforced. Others said allowing Project 10 in as a support group for gay and lesbian harassment victims would open the door to support groups for each form of harassment, from being overweight to wearing glasses.

A Petaluma man, telling the board to stick with teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, warned, "If we drive one child into homosexuality because of this information, then we are guilty of a terrible, terrible crime," while a Santa Rosa man told the audience that homosexuality was never "a subject of any serious consideration. But you're going to get into an environment where homosexual people are pushing and shoving and snorting around; and I've been harassed a couple of times by homosexuals. Those sons of bitches wanted to proposition me and I found that repugnant and repulsive."

When audience members expressed disbelief in his comment, he added, "some of you people have some very disagreeable personalities," which brought howls of laughter.

Circle of discrimination

Natalie Brown, a senior at Petaluma High School and one of several students who spoke in favor of Project 10, told the board, "If you are truly dedicated to the children, then you must be in every way, not just those ways that are comfortable to deal with. I believe that this dedication should surpass any politics..."

"It is my belief that because of the lack of education upon all gay and lesbian issues, there exists an unending circle of discrimination.

they have been traumatized by somebody coming to their school and advocating homosexual sex," Sheldon said.

"There has been a complete, orchestrated effort to take over the public schools by homosexual activists," he added.

Sheldon said that he had "no problem" with sex education.

"We believe in sex education, but we don't believe in telling sixth grade children about oral copulation," he said.

Sheldon bristled at the suggestion by Candace Gingrich, whom he once referred to as the "black sheep" of the speaker's family, that she should testify.

"Why should she?" he asked. "What justifies her to do it, just the name Gingrich?"

Gingrich outlined her qualifications in the letter to Hoekstra, saying, "As a lesbian and as one who has talked with so many people, I believe I can offer the subcommittee a perspective that can help shed light on these issues which too often draw only heat." ▼

There is a complete lack of understanding.

"Why not educate us so that we can make our own choices and form our own opinions?" she asked. "Why don't you ask frankly of yourselves, 'Why are you afraid that our views might turn out to be different than yours?'"

"Truth is truth, and it stands on its own accord," said Clarence Luvizi, another Petaluma man. "I am a Christian, and I am a student of the Bible. Saying that, I will say that ignorance — whether it's from lay people, from a minister, from a priest, or from a bishop, or from the Bishop of Rome — is still ignorance. It doesn't matter where it comes from." He criticized people quoting the Bible to make moral judgments without understanding its historical and cultural context.

"I have long resented people justifying their personal insecurities, prejudices, and their arrogant judgment of others by self-righteously calling themselves Christian."

"Real Christians know that Christ will say, 'What you did to my gay, my lesbian, my bisexual, my transgender young person, you did to me.'" ▼

This article appeared in a different form in *We The People*, a newspaper for the gay and lesbian community of Sonoma County.



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Hearings

Continued from page 1

scribed as a "noted religious political extremist who continues to publicly claim responsibility for [the hearings]."


Homosexual billing

Sheldon said he has not played a direct role in the hearings, other than to provide Hoekstra's panel with a potential witness list and other information. He said he will not be testifying.

"These are not Lou Sheldon's hearings, and that is how the homosexuals have billed them," he said. "I am not a member of the U.S. Congress."

Sheldon said the hearings were not intended to be about gay-bashing, but about how children are "impacted by the advocacy and promotion of homosexuality."

"I think what is going to come out of these hearings is that parents have their children come home from school and tell them




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COMMUNITY NEWS

Tom Ammiano Introduces Medical Marijuana Resolution

by Dennis Conkin

Supervisor Tom Ammiano this week introduced a resolution urging California voters to adopt the Compassionate Use Initiative of 1996, which would legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

The motion was referred to the board of supervisors for consideration at its Monday, December 12 meeting without reference to committee — which means its passage is likely, according to a spokesman for Ammiano.

The initiative, which would legalize the use of the herb for medical reasons, was sponsored by Californians For Compassionate Use, a grassroots group spearheaded by San Franciscans Dennis Peron and Bob Basker.

According to the initiative, the use of marijuana has been shown to be beneficial to people living with AIDS, breast cancer and other cancers, and many other serious medical conditions, as well as mediating the painful effects of some medical treatments.

Legislative attempts to legalize the use of marijuana for people with terminal illnesses have been passed by the state legislature, but were vetoed by right-wing Republican governor Pete Wilson.

San Francisco voters have historically supported the legaliza-



Supervisor Tom Ammiano kicks up his heels.

tion of marijuana and its cultivation for personal use, and overwhelmingly passed Proposition P, which de-prioritized the prosecution of marijuana offenses by the county District Attorney.

Both current candidates for the post of District Attorney, Bill Fazio and Terence Hallinan, support the legalization of marijuana for medical use. California State Senator Milton Marks (D-San Francisco) also supports such legislation.

Incumbent Mayor Frank Jor-

dan and mayoral candidate Willie Brown also support the medical marijuana initiative.

According to the Ammiano spokesman, the board of supervisors has a long history of supporting alternative treatments for cancer, AIDS, and other illnesses. ▼

Computer users may download a copy of the Compassionate Use Initiative petition at www.medicalmarijuana.org.

Barney Introduces Medical Marijuana Bill

by Bob Roehr

A bill to regulate the medical use of marijuana was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on November 10 by openly gay Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts). H.R. 2816 is being co-sponsored by four other Democratic members of Congress.

It would reclassify marijuana from a Schedule I, "no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States," to a tightly controlled Schedule II medicine under the Controlled Substance Act.

"It is cruel to deny a proven, safe, and helpful remedy to people who are seriously ill," Frank said. "More addictive, expensive, and less efficient narcotics are regularly prescribed by physicians, and the ban on allowing marijuana to be included in the list has no reasonable basis."

Advocates claim that marijuana is equal or superior to other treatment options, in terms of effectiveness, dosage control, and cost, for alleviating a variety of medical conditions. Most important to the lesbian and gay community is its use as an appetite stimulant to treat AIDS wasting syndrome and to combat the effects of nausea associated with radiation or chemo-therapy used in treating KS, breast, and other forms of cancer.

The bill is modeled after one first introduced in 1981 by Representative Stuart McKinney (R-Connecticut) and then cosponsored by many other Republicans,



Rep. Barney Frank

including Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia). No one has yet asked him to cosponsor this version. The most significant change is to add AIDS wasting syndrome and spastic conditions to the list of diseases approved for use.

Log Cabin Republican spokesman David Greer said, "The medicinal purposes have been validated." He urged Republicans to support the bill.

Robert Raben, staff assistant to Frank, explained that the bill "sets up a fairly elaborate system of distribution, says who is eligible to get it, and what medical professionals have to do, then it sets up a distribution system. HHS (Health and Human Services) and DOJ (Department of Justice) contract

out for growing it, and HHS distributes it."

Robert Kampia, director of government relations for the Marijuana Policy Project, is "excited" by introduction of the bill. But he admits "it is going to be tough to make this a priority for any committee to hold hearings, because there are so many other things going on." He hopes that will happen next year.

He sees the Judiciary Committee as a favorable venue. Frank is a member of that committee and its chair, Henry Hyde (R-Illinois), "understood that marijuana did have some medical benefits, and he seemed to think it was not an outrageous idea to make it medically available," according to Kampia. Subcommittee chair Bill McCollum (R-Florida) cosponsored the original bill in 1981.

Frank, in a keynote address to the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) in September 1994, called this "probably the most important undiscussed issue that we have. The fear to talk about this is so great that even when you do talk about it, people don't pay much attention."

"Medical marijuana is one of the easiest public policy issues I've ever heard. For the government of the United States to deny a doctor's right to prescribe what he thinks is best for that patient is wholly at variance with most of the principles my colleagues profess."

He vowed "to continue to try to shame my colleagues into changing this policy." ▼

Lutherans' Pozar Attends D.C. AIDS Meet

by Marv. Shaw

Michael Pozar, national director of the Lutheran AIDS Network, is one of those who participated, with 129 other representatives of groups throughout the U.S., in the White House Conference on HIV and AIDS on Wednesday, December 6. As he made preparations for the trip last week, he spoke with the *Bay Area Reporter* about his expectations.

According to Pozar, President Clinton planned to have a dialogue with the attendees, something that did not happen at the November 1993 prayer breakfast he attended.

Pozar agrees that the 1993 meeting succeeded in focusing attention on the epidemic, at least briefly, and apparently sensitizing the CDC to pay more attention, especially to prevention programs. Unfortunately, he acknowledged, action on various studies and recommendations had not been forthcoming.

"We are better off than we would have been if Bush had been re-elected," Pozar said, "but we

have much more to do.

"What we really need," he emphasized, "is an explicit overall national plan of action." He said he and other representatives would urge such a step on the president.

Pozar was asked how the north San Mateo County-based Lutheran AIDS Network (LAN), which he and Dr. Adele Resmer founded five years ago, would follow up the conference. "That depends on whether anything useful comes out of it," he asserted. "We have good recommendations. What we need is a presidential plan of action."

Hate the Sin, Love the Synod

Pozar left his former post as pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Pacifica to situate his own office at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco, the better to facilitate his work on AIDS through the national Lutheran church. In addition to forming LAN, an interfaith coalition of churches to provide for the needs of people with AIDS in their area, Pozar also served a long tenure

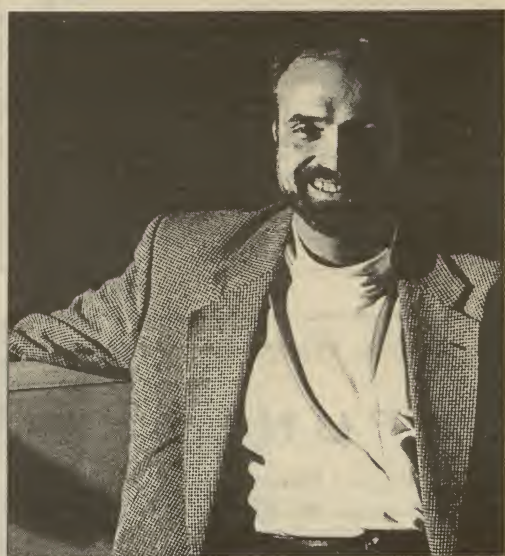
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Explaining the position of the church in relation to AIDS work, and the theological position on homosexuality, Pozar pointed out that the national Lutheran church is made up of two synods, with considerably different positions on several matters, including sexuality.

The larger and more liberal synod, with five million members, is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The smaller, with about 2,500,000 members, is the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which is considerably more conservative, in Pozar's view. Nevertheless, the "Reconciled in Christ" movement, which is gay-oriented, now has groups in more than 100 churches throughout the nation.

But lately, according to Pozar, LAN has received inquiries about AIDS materials even from the Missouri Synod. "It appears that many congregations have an easier time dealing with AIDS than confronting gayness," he said.

Further inquiries should be directed to Michael Pozar at (415) 824 8336. ▽



Pastor Michael Pozar: "What we need is a presidential plan of action."

Conference

Continued from page 1

Tom Duane, New York city councilman and invitee, said, "The president has a terrific pulpit up there and we want him to use it. If he does, people will support him for reelection, but the ball is in his court."

Sean Strub, the publisher of *POZ* magazine, was told his views were "too controversial" to be invited. And only after wrangling, he said, was the magazine able to secure one press pass to the event — with the proviso, "No questions to the president, and all that sort of thing."

No exit; no re-entry

"Bob Hattoy [the AIDS poster boy of the 1992 Democratic National Convention and member of the administration] said he was told he would be fired," according to Strub. "He would be out of a job if he came out and spoke here. [San Francisco activist] Cleve Jones was told ahead of time that if he came out to join us, he would not be allowed back inside."

Hattoy was spotted with a group of other participants walking past the White House to the afternoon session at the Treasury Department. He said his morning session on treatment "went fine," "Fauci, Gallo, all the Nobels [prize winners] were there." But when asked to cross the street to speak with others in the press he said, "I can't."

New York activist Bob Lederer charged, "This meeting is about politics and Bill Clinton's reelection." It was a common interpretation.

Wayne Turner with ACT UP/Washington said, "A White House AIDS Conference is to AIDS bureaucrats as free beer is to frat boys." It brought to mind an image of the conference as a pledge rush for the 1996 presidential campaign by the Clinton fraternity.

For David Greer, spokesman for Log Cabin Republicans, the meeting was "about seeking campaign contributions, not a cure. The invitees are people who have given a lot of money."

"When people in Washington really want to get things done, they go bipartisan," he said. "What is the purpose of having an AIDS summit when Republicans have not been invited?" ▽

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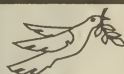
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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you enclose a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Stephen Bach Martin

July 5, 1957 - Nov. 12, 1995

Stephen died on Sunday, November 12. He is survived by his parents, Fant and Pat Martin; sister and brother-in-law, Ellen and Mark Baran; two nieces, Sarah and Emily Baran; and his lover, Andy Anderson.

Steve was a travel counselor for 13 years. He worked at the executive services desk for American Express Travel

Service for six years.

One of Steve's strongest attributes was that he personified the term "good friend." He was loyal, loving and supportive to all who considered him a friend. He had a marvelous sense of humor and a dry wit which stayed with him until the end.

Steve had a great zest for life as shown by his hobbies: four beautiful aquaria, a collection of orchids, a computer, music, pottery and gardening. He also traveled extensively.

Steve gave of himself by volunteering with Rita Rockett's Brunch Bunch, Project Open Hand, the Steinhart Museum and Orehid Mania.

A special thanks to 2 North at Davies Hospital. The care and compassion extended to Steve and his family far exceeded anyone's expectations.

Donations in Stephen's memory may be made to Rita Rockett's Brunch Fund, 475 Dolores, No. 1, SF 94110, or The Family Link, 317 Castro St., SF 94114. ▼

Joseph Robert Sarocka

March 14, 1949 - Nov. 20, 1995

Joseph passed peacefully at 9 p.m. at the Walnut Creek Kaiser. He still felt that he had more to do. He will long be remembered for his brilliance in architecture, interior design and, yes, even hairdressing. Glendome Circle, his favorite project, will remain as a monument in Oakland to his many talents.

Joseph was attended by longtime friend of 18 years, Scott Conover; his mother, Mrs. Joseph Sarocka; and her friend, Sue Harriot. His devoted friends, Philip Anderson and James Tibbs, stood by his side throughout his ordeal.

This was a man who brought joy to the world with his ubiquitous laughter, and brought fresh perspective with his indomitable humor. He would want to thank Lisa, Robin and, of course, Bill, whose constant care and patience made Joseph's world possible. ▼

Gary W. Oleszko

November 11, 1995

Gary died in San Francisco on November 11. He was the beloved lifetime companion of Ron Vachon; loving son of Eugene and Sophie Oleszko; and the dear brother of Allen Oleszko and Kathleen Best.

Gary was a flight attendant with Northwest Airlines for 16 years.

We will miss his laughter and positive outlook on life. AIDS has claimed another beautiful person. AIDS must be stopped.

Funeral services were held in Michigan. ▼

Gary Lee Burleson

April 1, 1948 - Nov. 28, 1995

After a six-year battle with full-blown AIDS, Gary passed away peacefully, surrounded by friends at Maitri Hospice.

Gary was raised in Loraine County, Ohio, and is survived by four loving sisters: Vivian, Sharon, Elizabeth and Lilian. He moved to San Francisco with his friend Edie in the early '70s.

Gary mostly enjoyed his sobriety, bingo, movies, shopping, cooking and Bart Simpson. He worked at many gay establishments in SF from Hamburger Mary's to the Castro Country Club.

Gary demonstrated his generosity in many ways. He volunteered at almost every AIDS organization in SF and had a tremendous love for animals, yet it was through his stubborn edge and impatience that he found the courage and determination to keep going.

Gary was grateful for the support and love he received from his friends and the staff at Maitri Hospice. His presence will be missed by our community at large. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, December 10, at MCC at 1 p.m., followed by a reception at the Castro Country Club. Any questions call 863-1709. ▼

Barry Kurt Davison

May 29, 1958 - July 21, 1995

Kurt conquered AIDS while holding Randy's hand, surrounded by friends, family and love on Friday, July 21, at just after 5 p.m. He is survived by his husband, Raymond Randy Dale Webb; father, Hess Davison; brother, Hessel Davison; sister, Cheryl Clark; brother-in-law, Jay Clark; and his ever faithful companion, Buddy

Kurt was a man among men. He was a tower of strength and courage, and was always there for his friends, serving as mentor and guide to everyone who became a part of his life.

Kurt was an accomplished writer, completing many novels and works of fiction, including his unfinished autobiography, *Memoirs of a Monster*. But his true passions were books and reading. In his lifetime Kurt read thousands of books, millions of pages from The Hardy Boys to Proust. His love of books gave him strength and comfort in his battle with AIDS.

By the end of his illness, Kurt was blind, could not walk, and had not eaten in almost two years. Amazingly, he never complained or felt sorry for himself. Not even once.

Many thanks to everyone who helped him on his long and difficult journey.

I will always love you, my darling Dude. Love, the Dooder ▼

William Ray Blake

Aug. 31, 1949 - Dec. 8, 1994

A year ago December 8, Bill Blake passed away from our world into the next. On this first anniversary of his death, we who were blessed to know him celebrate his life on this earth.

Born in St. Louis, Bill graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia, in 1973. He taught fifth grade in Union, Missouri, for five years, and then moved on to Chicago, where he took a job with Charles Schwab as a branch manager. In 1990, Bill transferred to San Francisco, where he worked until his retirement in late 1993.

Bill shared his love of music and the arts through his membership in the Chicago and San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. His warmth and kindness brought him many friends in those cities as well as in St. Louis and wherever he traveled. All who knew him miss the warmth of his companionship, but we live on knowing that his cherished memory will always remain alive in our hearts.

Bill is survived by his life partner, Steve Rath; his mother, Irma Blake; and brothers and sisters, Joe, Irma, Carol and Emil. ▼

Michael J. Dowling

March 19, 1958 - Nov. 2, 1995

Michael J. Dowling, beloved son of Phyllis S. Dowling of Kittery Point, Maine, and Joseph M. Dowling of Melbourne, Fla., died Thursday, November 2, at Mount Zion Hospital after a long struggle with AIDS-related lymphoma.

Michael was born in Corning, New York. He graduated from Corning East High School.

He attended Corning Community College, Rochester Institute of Technology and Johnson and Wales College.

Michael relocated to California and was employed by SuperShuttle in association with the San Francisco Airport. He was a devoted member of the Most Holy Redeemer Church.

Michael is survived by his partner of 10 years, Joe Frezza; his mother, Phyllis; his father, Joseph; his sisters, Ellen and Peggy; and his roommate, Daniel Miclon. He will also be missed by many friends, co-workers and his beloved pets, Chi Chi, Chipper, Crystal, Jasmine and Chuckie.

Donations may be made to Project Open Hand. ▼

Jonathan Kim Popson

Nov. 15, 1954 - Nov. 25, 1995

Kim Popson died peacefully on November 25 at Mount Zion Hospital from AIDS. With him during his final hours were three longtime friends: Carl, Richard and Tom.

Kim grew up in Pennsylvania and graduated from St. Francis of Loretto with a bachelor's in business administration. He moved to San Francisco in

1981, where he worked for Chevron and the Emporium.

Kim's many friends will miss his generosity and compassion. One testament to this is the willingness with which so many participated in his care. These include Carl, Richard, Tom, Mario, Lionel, Doug, Dan, as well as many who live in the same apartment building. Kim is also survived by his mother, Ella DiConcilio; his aunt, Carrie; a sister, Lynn Mason; and a brother, Jerry Popson.

A memorial will be held Saturday, December 9, at 10 a.m. at Most Holy Redeemer, 100 Diamond Street. For further information, please call Carl at 491-0953. In Kim's memory, donations to Project Open Hand and the AIDS Emergency Fund are suggested. ▼

Allan T. Johnson

July 8, 1952 - Oct. 25, 1995

While Allan was in California, he worked in a variety of places and at various jobs, including head bartender at Chez Jacques from the day it opened until the day it closed three years later.

Thanks to George, Allan escaped the River and the elements there, and moved to Denver to start a new life. Thanks to George, Allan lost his battle with brain cancer at home and not in a hospital, and thanks to George, Allan did not die alone.

Allan was one of the most non-judgmental people I have ever met, and the variety of people in his circle of friends reflected that attitude. You know who you are. He will be sorely missed by those of us who knew him.

Donations in Allan's name will be gratefully received by Lutheran Hospice, Lutheran Hospital, 8300 West 38th, Wheatridge, CO 80333. - Carol ▼

Anyone with information about the life of **Tucker Finn**, founder of the Shades Project, including his military history, educational background, etc., is requested to contact Mike Salinas, News Editor, *Bay Area Reporter*, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94102.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo: Mike Salinas

Needles and Nipples

AIDS Emergency Fund Bare Chest Calendar boys Mike Greenberg (left) and Martyn Jones displayed their wares Saturday, Dec. 2, at Castro and 18th while Shannon Cummings attached red ribbons to the Castro Christmas Tree, sponsored by the Merchants of Upper Market Association.

OBITUARIES

Tom Field

Jan. 24, 1930 - Nov. 14, 1995

Tom died of cancer November 14 in San Francisco. He was one of the central painters (with Jess, Paul Alexander, Fran Herndon, Harry Jacobus, Knute Stiles, and Nemi Frost) of the San Francisco Renaissance, with which the poets Robert Duncan, Jack Spicer, Robin Blaser, Helen Adam, Ebbe Borregard and Joanne Kyger are associated.



Tom was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and educated at the Fort Wayne Art School and at Black Mountain College in North Carolina, where he studied painting under Joseph Flare and humanities under Charles Olson and Robert Creeley. He came to San Francisco in 1956 and became involved with the Beat writers (he is Lenny Meadows in Kerouac's *Big Sur*).

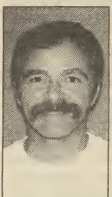
Tom was a merchant marine for many years, and lived and painted for 10 years near Bodega Bay. He exhibited at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Borregard Museum, Peacock Gallery, Buzz Gallery and Top Floor Gallery.

For the last 19 years of Tom's life, he lived and worked at East-West House, a commune founded in 1957. He is survived by a multitude of loving friends far and wide. A memorial will be held on Sunday, December 10, at East-West House, 733 Baker Street, SF, 1-6 p.m. For information call (415) 346-7317. ▼

Wayne E. Jensen

Nov. 28, 1946 - Nov. 20, 1995

Eight days before his birthday, Wayne died of AIDS-related complications. He has left us to join the many he loved and lost during the years of this plague. With him were his mother, sister Florence and (our Angel) sister Maxine. Although much too short, Wayne had a fascinating and successful life filled with much love, laughter and friendship.



Wayne left the family farm in North Dakota to serve in the Army. He was with Army Intelligence in Ethiopia during the Vietnam era. Then he went to college in Missoula, Montana, and eventually made his way to San Francisco in 1972.

Wayne had several distinct careers through which he made many friends and had many successes. He started as an operating room technician at Kaiser Hospital. He then was co-founder and owner of Sticky Bun Bakery in Glen Park. After that he became a wonderfully talented floral designer, working throughout the Bay Area. His decorations at St. Ignatius Cathedral for Christmas and Easter were fabulous.

Wayne will be deeply missed by many friends in the Bay Area and around the world. There will be a celebration of his life on December 10. Please call Tommy Yaussy at (415) 731-5957 for information. ▼

Douglas G. Putnam

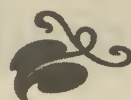
November 21, 1995

Douglas G. Putnam died in this city November 21. He was the dear brother of Kenneth R. Putnam and family, and is survived by numerous friends, including Charles Crouse, William Arbones, Charles Sears, John Wahl and Larry Hughes.

Douglas was an employee of Bank of America and a retired employee of U.S. Steel.

Friends are invited to attend a memorial service on Saturday, December 9, at 1 p.m. at Arthur J. Sullivan & Co., 2254 Market Street, between 15th and 16th sts. Donations in Douglas' memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 235 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94104. ▼

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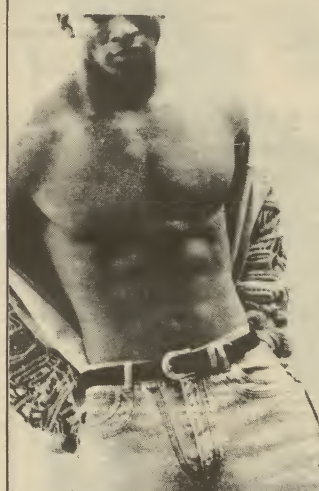
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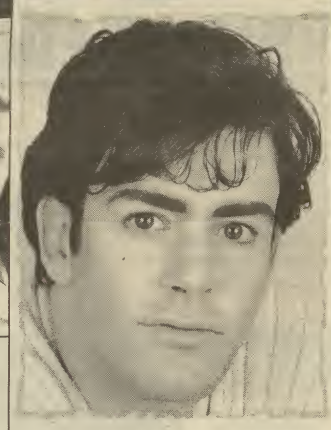
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I Am a Lawsuit

by Michael C. Botkin

My boyfriend was fired because I have AIDS. Or, more exactly, because he refused to put me in a hospice when I was at death's door earlier this year, so that he could return to work.

Legally, as he was out on disability leave, he had every right to stay out. They would never have dreamed of asking a pregnant woman or recent mom — the most frequent disability leave takers in

Steve's department — to return early. But they felt different about Steve, different about AIDS, and persisted until Steve hired a lawyer to get them off his back. Then they were silent, but we realize now that they'd decided that he was never going to return to work.

I didn't know anything about this at the time. I didn't know much of anything. I was only fully conscious about half an hour of the day in April, and can't remember much from that month at all — for which I am duly grateful. If

Steve had asked me to go into a hospice, I would have wailed like a hound, but he never even considered it. Slowly, much slower than ever before, I recovered from my opportunistic infection (cryptococcal meningitis this time), perhaps to the surprise of Steve's boss, and on a Tuesday in late September, he presented himself at the hospital ready to return to work.

Commentary

He walked into an ambush, one of his boss's specialties. About six weeks before Steve's purge, a co-worker had been summoned into the office of that boss — let us call her She Who Must Be Obeyed — and fled in tears half an hour later never to return. She even sent a friend to clean out her desk.

With her sidekick, Jack, Steve's supervisor, doing most of the dirty work, they began to harass him. "Why do you want to work here?" they demanded, ignoring his answers. When he tried to defend some of his past complaints, She Who Must Be Obeyed spat out, "I won't have anybody spewing venom in my hospital!" Steve picked up on the possessive pronoun and retreated to the director of Human Resources office.

After a hurried consultation with S.W.M.B.O., who refused to let him on the unit, Human Resources head Myra decided to send Steve home. Thursday, his next scheduled work day, he arranged to meet at 10 a.m. with S.W.M.B.O., Jack, and Myra to at-



Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

Michael Botkin (left) with boyfriend Steve on World AIDS Day.

tempt to resolve the situation.

'The Goddaughter'

S.W.M.B.O. can be forgiven for considering Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford (or CHAS, as it used to be called) her hospital. Although she ranks only about number three in the official hierarchy, she's the dominant personality at the institution.

Some years ago CHAS was a liberal, even feminist institution. This was because the president, a closeted gay, was strongly supported by Lucille Packard, CHAS's deepest pocketed benefactor. Then Lucille died. Her hubby paid a huge bequest on her behalf — enough to fund the new CHAS building that bears her name — and then told them the gravy train had come to the end of the track and not to expect any more checks from Packard.

Before Lucille was long cold, the president was forced to resign. There followed a quick purge of all the quiet homosexuals who had risen under his benevolent tutelage; incidentally, this also removed many of the outspoken feminists. Then came a reorganization.

Before it was over, an entire layer of management had been eliminated; every single one of them fired, resigned, or floating off on a golden parachute. Only one remained: S.W.M.B.O. She's nicknamed "The Goddaughter" because she's rumored to have a godfather on the hospital board. It would certainly explain a lot. Anyway, she prospered under the new regime.

Queerifying

Given who they are, S.W.M.B.O. and Steve were probably fated never to get along, but the core source of their day-to-day conflict was that S.W.M.B.O. thought she was hiring a gay — hopefully a nice, quiet, closeted gay — when in fact she was hiring a queer. Steve didn't know he was a queer, and in fact he wasn't one yet. However, he was in the queerifying process, which, like AIDS, tends to be progressive and irreversible. The main difference is that it confers life instead of death. When S.W.M.B.O. discovered she had a queer on her hands, she was horrified.

She discovered this only six weeks after Steve started on the job. We had one of our last serious Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS) scares. He went in and told S.W.M.B.O. that his lover had AIDS, that I might have to go in the hospital, and that Steve wanted to tell his co-workers what was going on.

S.W.M.B.O. was furious. He should have told her this from the start; she would never have hired him if she'd known (which seems to show that he was rather wise to conceal it!). She informed him that it was ethically impossible for a partner of a PWA to be an AIDS social worker and that he must under no circumstances tell any-

body anything about my condition, on pain of losing his job.

To his deep shame, Steve abided by this for several years (that last lingering bit of well-mannered gay, assailed from all sides and ultimately yielding to the unrepentant queer). But it made no difference: from that moment on S.W.M.B.O. was out to get him.

She had plenty of other reasons to hate him. Most of his salary was paid by a federal grant to fund home visits to hemophiliacs with AIDS in the South Bay and Central Valley. S.W.M.B.O. had always considered this a cash cow pure and simple, and expected the worker to put in the minimum hours faking paperwork and spend the rest of the time on hospital business.

Steve insisted on doing the work. The doctors whose patients he worked with constantly demanded even more of his time. The patients raved about him; people who were afraid to come into CHAS and face the openly racist guards (Latino patients were routinely routed to the service entrance or told that they really wanted to go to the county hospital) hailed him as a lifesaver.

All this just irritated S.W.M.B.O. She threw the praising letters from doctors and patients in the trash, instead of reading them at staff meetings and putting them in his file, as she did with people she didn't hate.

Furthermore, Steve had allied with the department's opposition faction: the women of color. His department was divided into two wings. The first was the eating-disordered, co-dependent white women, who were work dumpers, neurotic, and highly focused on a mock maternal relationship with S.W.M.B.O. They covered for her and did her bidding — including overtime and baby-sitting — without question.

The other wing was the women of color faction — black, Latino, and Asian women — and now Steve. I called it "the woman of color and fag faction." These were competent, albeit feisty women, whose failure to kiss S.W.M.B.O.'s hem with appropriate deference was reluctantly overlooked because somebody had to do the department's work while the Anglos were baby-sitting and snarfing expensive Palo Alto-land cakes and pastries.

Ambushed again

So as a queer, a rebel, a partner of a PWA; as someone who'd refused a direct order from her and then hired a lawyer to make his case, Steve was dead meat. The only question left was how to make the offering as painful as possible.

The Thursday meeting was a farce. S.W.M.B.O. showed up an hour and half late, and announced that she would answer no questions and engage in no dialogue, merely deliver a statement — which said, in

Continued on page 26

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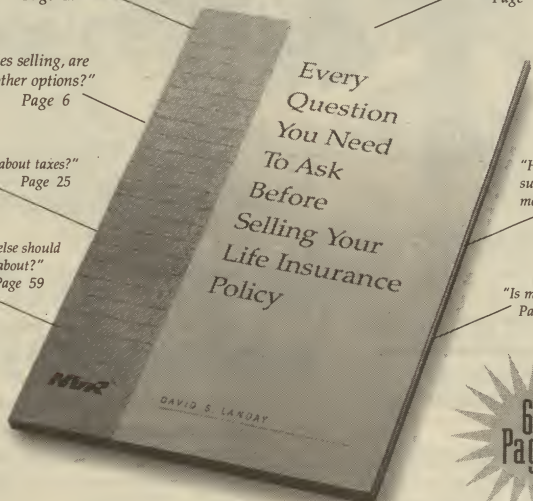
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Kaiser Care-Less

A broad coalition of activists, including several ACT UP chapters, protested Kaiser Permanente's reluctance to provide necessary testing and treatments for PWAs on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, in front of Kaiser headquarters on Geary Blvd.

Cocktail Therapy

by Stephen LeBlanc
ACT UP/Golden Gate
Writer's Pool

A new picture of HIV infection emerged during 1995, and that new understanding has important implications for anyone using or considering using anti-HIV drugs. The treatment approaches most commonly used today may be doomed to fail, and much of the research necessary to improve them isn't happening.

Two independent papers, one by Xiping Wei et al. and one by David Ho et al., first published in the January 12, 1995 issue of the journal *Nature*, suggest that throughout the time a person is infected with HIV, the virus is actively and aggressively multiplying and the immune system is almost as rapidly destroying viral particles and infected cells. The papers estimate that between one million and one billion new viruses are created in an HIV-infected person's body every day, with a nearly equal number destroyed by the immune system. With each cycle of viral replication, the replicating viruses are randomly mutating, resulting in a genetically diverse population of virus.

In the presence of anti-viral therapy and attacks from the immune system, HIV variants are constantly being selected that most effectively survive. During the past year, this view of HIV disease has become almost universally accepted by leading HIV researchers and doctors, but the implications of this view for anti-viral HIV treatment have yet to be adopted.

Aggressive anti-viral therapy as currently administered by most doctors generally seeks to achieve a moderate level of viral suppression. Even the most aggressive doctors will generally prescribe only two or maybe three anti-viral medications, hoping to achieve a steady T-cell count and a somewhat suppressed viral load. Clinical practice is then to wait, and when T-cells fall or other indications of disease progression appear, to switch to a different anti-viral therapy.

The *Nature* papers suggest that a "wait and switch" approach to anti-viral therapy is not the best. So far, HIV has been found to have available mutations that can confer resistance to every anti-HIV drug yet tested. These mutations happen by chance: the more virus multiplying in your body, the greater the chances of a mutation that will give resistance to a drug. It is thought that prior to taking any currently available anti-HIV drug, some percentage of the HIV in a person's body is already somewhat resistant to that drug. As the drug continues to be taken,

non-resistant virus is prevented from multiplying and resistant virus gradually replaces the non-resistant virus in the body. Over time, further mutations can happen in the resistant virus population to make it even more highly resistant to the drug.

Don't wait

"Wait and switch" may therefore be fundamentally wrong for two related reasons. First, challenging the virus with just one or two drugs makes it more likely that a significant amount of resistant virus will be present when therapy begins. If for example, ten percent of the virus in a person's body is resistant to drug #1 before therapy begins and ten percent is resistant to drug #2, then about one percent of the virus will be resistant to drug #1 and drug #2 together. Research to date suggests that even this one percent will be enough to repopulate the virus in the body with mutated resistant virus.

The second related reason that "wait and switch" is likely a poor strategy is that once a resistant virus has been allowed to fully repopulated the body, the virus will have a higher chance of having a mutation resistant to a new drug. Challenging the virus with one or two drugs at a time makes it more likely for the virus to find the mutations necessary to confer resistance to each drug.

Some researchers are therefore suggesting that the most effective and long lasting anti-HIV effect will come from using a large "cocktail" combination of anti-HIV drugs, possibly upwards of six or eight different agents, and starting drug therapy with all these agents at nearly the same time. These researchers argue that the goal of anti-HIV therapy should be to push viral load down as close to zero as possible and keep it there, thereby reducing the chance that a virus will emerge having all the mutations necessary to overcome the multiple drugs. This approach also hopes to minimize the destruction of replicating HIV to the immune system. A few researchers have expressed the hope that if viral multiplication can be kept extremely low for an extended time, for example 18 months to two years, the longest-lived cells in the body with HIV will die out or be killed and the disease will be cured.

The importance of combination drug therapies in treating an infectious disease is not new. Effective tuberculosis treatment, for example, depends on treatment with a combination of as many as four anti-bacterial agents, any single one of which is generally not effective in curing the disease.

While this strategy is among the most promising scientifically, it is not yet being widely studied in

patients for reasons that should have people with AIDS up in arms. Foremost is that research on many of the most promising drugs for use in cocktail therapy is entirely controlled by private drug companies. These companies have shown little interest in cooperating with one another to test out their latest compounds in combination with other not-yet-approved drugs. While doing so should much more quickly lead to identifying promising cocktail treatments, the proven route to making large profits that drug companies have chosen to follow is single agent drug studies leading to FDA approval. The drug company-created "Inter-Company Collaboration for AIDS Drug Development" has so far limited its studies to long-available drugs, such as AZT and ddI, combined with one new compound at most, and has not looked at combinations of newly-developed drugs.

Federal non-guidance

The federal government has not yet taken any steps to provide the leadership necessary to correct this situation. The government could conceivably conduct its own combination therapy research; however, the government conducts virtually no research on new anti-HIV drugs. The government

Continued on page 26

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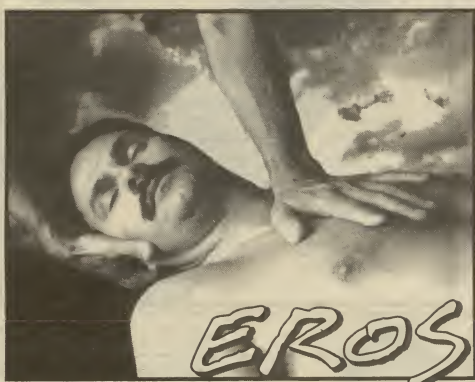
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Tweaker

Continued from page 16

30s who has abused crystal for many years and who spoke to the *Bay Area Reporter* on condition of anonymity, said about inpatient care, "All it means is that I'll stay clean and sober for those 30 days — or 60 or 180, or however long the program lasts.

"The dealers will be calling me up the first day I'm home."

'They might as well be men'

Schade said that the drug has taken hold among gay males because there is no other tonic like it for losing one's sexual inhibitions. "Amphetamines, universally, give a person a sense of well-being," he said. "If people have problems with self-esteem issues it corrects a lot of that. It has a way of reducing or obliterating inhibitions in someone, particularly in gay men who are sexually inhibited. This is a real problem in our society making it a real wonder drug for gay men.

"You almost cannot separate the sexual component from the usage of crystal methamphetamine in the gay community." The same holds true for women who have shown up at CMA meetings, he said. "When we listen to their stories, they might as well be men."

Schade described himself as a functioning addict for many years until after his lover died. "It works very efficiently at stopping one's feelings. You don't feel. That's when I started losing control." As with any serious substance abuse, addicts are ticking time bombs. After three days of no sleep, which often occurs with meth usage, psychosis is natural enough, Schade said. With crystal

meth in your system it is inevitable, many times with tragic affects.

"John" painted a similar picture, saying he turned to meth with a vengeance a few months after his lover, who shot up crystal meth for many years off and on, died of AIDS. He said he threw away a successful youth counseling career, the respect of his family who thought they had witnessed the last of his addiction, and numerous lifelong friendships after a six-month crystal binge that culminated in his second drug possession conviction in three years. He said his crystal-induced paranoia drove him to intense jealousies, including weaving elaborate tales about different members of his circle of friends to drive a wedge through them — some of which last to this day.

"I become a predator when I'm high," he said.

"I ignored all the help that was available to me in the community.

I tried to date clean, but I felt out of practice, and getting high helped me loosen up. I went to tweaker bars, then hotel rooms [rented for all-night parties], then I started having black-outs."

After depleting his savings, he began stealing prescription drugs in order to "trade," driving anyone within shouting distance away when they objected. Soon it was the director of his counseling center peppering "John" with questions about his behavior and his absences during the day, for hours at a time.

Today "John," who was fired from that job, is working on a certificate that will allow him to find work as a substance abuse counselor. ▼

For information about recovery programs in San Jose, call the Billy DeFrank Center's Addiction Outreach Program at (408) 293-AGAY, or e-mail them at Antolovic6@aol.com.

Botkin

Continued from page 24

essence, that Steve was clinically unfit to provide services due to mental instability, as evidenced by his outspoken anger at his bosses. This was patently absurd, but it was also the only way she could justify keeping him off the job. It was also, if unchallenged, the kiss of death to his career.

After some back and forth between our lawyer and Myra, a deal was cut. Steve would allow them to talk to his shrink; if said shrink declared him fit, he would be allowed back on the job. Steve was apprehensive. He called to make sure there were no extra conditions and asked them to call if there were. No call came. The next Tuesday he sailed into work.

And into another ambush. S.W.M.B.O. and Jack pulled him into a room and told him he had to sign a "contract" before he could work. The "contract" was a combination confession (i.e., "I will no longer use violent or threatening behavior"), gag rule, and special protocol designed to make him fireable in a month, max. He withdrew to consult with his lawyer, and we decided he'd been "constructively terminated," de facto fired. He scheduled a last meeting to cash out his benefits.

And would you believe it, they ambushed us again! The first thing we asked, of course, was about COBRA. I was rather smug about it; I planned to extend my insurance for the full 29 months (18

plus the 11-month COBRA extension) and have the state pay for it — a great deal for them since it meant that MediCal wouldn't have to pick up my staggering monthly drug bill. "Oh, no. Domestic partners can't have COBRA benefits," they said smugly. "Look at the manual." (They just happened to have one nearby, open to the appropriate page.)

My world was spinning. I had faced up to the prospect of being broke, but not of losing my insurance. Sure I had MediCal, but who knew how long it would be around? While it wasn't quite a sentence of death, it was a sure promise of hardship. I clutched the table with trembling hands.

Steve, god bless him, was reading the document. "It says here that former partners aren't covered, which clearly means that 'current' partners are." Their smiles faded. A runner was dispatched to fetch the master book, a binder the size of three phone books. Yes, this book made it clear that I was screwed. But Steve referred it to our lawyer (John Sindell, a real gem), who forced them to back down.

We're suing CHAS. We hope they settle out of court, because taking the case to trial, while likely to yield a large sum (the "contract" they wanted him to sign is evidence enough to assure that), would take several years to win, and I probably don't have several years. Oh well, that's the point of persecuting PWAs; they don't linger around to bear you a grudge. ▼

ACT UP

Continued from page 25

could also require that drug companies make promising new drugs available to academic researchers to conduct independent research into drug effectiveness and combination therapies, but thus far has not done so.

Equal to the harm to people with AIDS from the delay in testing combination therapies is the danger that a drug that might prove very useful and potent in combination with other drugs will not be developed because it shows little or no beneficial effects when used alone. 3TC could have been such a drug and it was a lucky accident that 3TC was found to work in combination with a long-approved anti-HIV drug like AZT. Had AZT not been approved when 3TC was being studied (and had the two drug companies that owned the drugs not merged), 3TC and AZT might never have been studied together and 3TC research may have been discontinued before the drug was fully developed.

Some researchers have suggested that non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, such as nevirapine and delavirdine, might work especially well in certain combinations; however, interest in those drugs has lagged due to the rapid emergence of resistant virus when the drugs are taken alone, and the drugs have not been studied in the most promising combinations.

An important issue that must be addressed in discussing combination therapies is negative side effects from drug toxicities. Some combinations may be not be usable because of additive toxicities. However, it is also possible that using smaller amounts of a number of different drugs may decrease the occurrence of negative side effects. In either case, questions regarding both the effectiveness and toxicities of multiple combinations cannot be answered until the combinations are studied.

And unless people with AIDS take action to insure those studies take place, promising treatment options may be lost or long delayed. ▼

HEALTH & COMMUNITY

ACT UP Golden Gate: meets Tues. nights, 7pm at 592 Castro St. Info: 252-9200.

ACT UP SF: committed to ending the AIDS crisis thru direct action. 1388 Haight St., #218 94117. Info: 522-2907.

AIDS Benefits Counselors: Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Community Research Consortium conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia Unit at St. Mary's Med. Center seeks volunteers. Call Ed Schultz, 750-4976.

AIDS Health Project: Mixed caregivers and women's caregivers groups; drop-in groups for HIV+ and PWA, more. Info, intake interviews: 476-3902.

AIDS/HIV Nightline provides telephone emotional support and crisis counseling. Volunteers needed: training begins soon. 984-1902.

AIDS-Related Vision Loss Support Group meets 1st & 3rd Tues., 1pm at Rose Resnick Lighthouse, 214 Van Ness. 431-1481, ext. 209 or 215.

AIDS Treatment Education Network provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project offers support group for persons with cancer or AIDS, led by Dr. Syd Strong. Wed., 3:30pm. Call 566-5683.

BAHAN (Bay Area HIV Advocacy Network) is a grassroots program of the SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax tree action alerts, gov't lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. Info: Ryan Clary 864-5855 ext. 3032.

Bay Positives: Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Bereavement Groups for family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Boy + Boy: actions which promote safe sex among young gay and bi men. Tues., 7pm at Stop AIDS Project, 201 Sanchez. 431-2ACT xBOY.

Brothers Network Support Groups: HIV and Recovery, Mondays, 6:30pm, 973 Market, Suite 650. Call for schedule of other groups: 356-8140.

California AIDS Ride 3 is looking for riders and volunteers. Call Eddie Kaufman at 908-0400 ext. 403.

Clinica Esperanza, the HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Coming out group for lesbians: Fri. mornings, 10:30-12, facilitated by Nathalie Paven, LCSW. Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. 626-7000, x. 127.

Coming out support group for men meets Weds., 5:30pm at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome, no fee. Facilitated by Kirk Hinman, PhD. Info: 626-7000.

Comprehensive Outreach Project for Asian Substance Abusers: reduced risk of HIV infection thru counseling and treatment referrals. Multilingual. 541-9404.

Continuum HIV Day Services: an adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Call 241-5500.

Davies Med. Center: Free classes for HIV+ people in needlepoint (Tues., Wed.), exercise (Tues., Thurs.), stress reduction (Mon.). Castro at Duboce. Info: 565-6369.

Deaf AIDS Center at UCSF Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practical support, interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-7600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

DNCB Support Group: Meets 2nd & 4th Mon. at 194 Church St., 7:15pm. Call 954-8896.

Ellipse-Peninsula AIDS Services:

Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. 572-9702.

Extra Positives: Social support group for HIV+ men under 40. Info: 522-9477.

FABRIC, a support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Gay Fathers Support Network of Santa Rosa meets first Sun. of every month, 7pm. Info: Mark (707) 523-6941.

Gay/Lesbian Legal Referral Service seeks gay-sensitive law students as Law Clerks, one 3-hr. shift/week at GLRS office, Oakland. Info: 621-3900.

Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic: Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Gay Young Spirit, a new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues., 7:15pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

Glide Mem'l Church needs turkey, ham, canned food for its Grocery Bag Giveaway, and toys for its Toy Giveaway. Call 771-6300.

Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics' Drug Detox, Rehabilitation and Aftercare Program, counseling and HIV education, free. Hector, 565-1909.

Healing Alternatives Foundation maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Health Support Services for PWAs and their caregivers. Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis "B" Testing and vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

HIV/AIDS Services at Operation Concern: Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV, men, men with AIDS/ARC, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. Operation Concern, 1853 Market St.

HIV and African-American Gay/Bisexual Men support groups every Wed., 6:30-8pm. Brothers Network, 973 Market, Suite 650. 356-8140.

HIV Care offers the latest clinical trials from the AmFAR community-based trial network and private industry, free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group: Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group: Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group, 18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

Housing and Client Assistance Program for PWAs provides emergency housing and financial help to residents of San Mateo Co. Mental Health Assn. of San Mateo Co.: 368-9989.

Immune Enhancement Project treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

INVENTION sponsors support groups for HIV negative men Tues. evenings, 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 522-1785.

Iris Center: Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Kaiser Permanente Hospice seeks volunteers to assist with patients with AIDS or cancer. 7-week training session begins in Jan. Info: 202-3173.

Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment Program (LYFE): Peer

support and mentoring programs for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender youth. 565-7681.

Legal Services for Children's H.O.P.E. Project provides social and legal services to low-income HIV affected families. Info: 863-3762.

Linea de Ambiente: Information, referral and emotional support for gay, lesbian and bi Latinos regarding immigration, HIV, social services, a project of Gente Latina de Ambiente (GELAAM). 243-9534.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center: Primary health care for women by women. Counseling, anonymous testing, prevention education, support groups for HIV + women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

The Mark Pope Career Counseling Center: a non-profit career counseling agency serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities of the Bay Area. 760 Market St., Suite 962. 296-8024.

Martin De Porres House of Hospitality needs volunteers to work in soup kitchen, breakfast and lunch. 225 Potrero. 552-0240.

MCC Chronic/Life-Threatening Support Group: Every Wed., 1-3pm, at MCC, 150 Eureka St. Free, drop-in. Call 863-4434.

MWM: a rap group for gay/bi Asian Pacific Islander men and their partners. Tues. nights, 6:30pm. Asian AIDS Project, 785 Market, Suite 420. 227-1586.

Mothers Organizing Mothers working to change public attitudes and policies on AIDS. Meets 2nd Wed. of every month, 7pm. Call 922-4639 or 221-6651 for information.

NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt seeks volunteers for archiving, data entry, community outreach, sewing, more. Call Mike Moreno at 882-5500.

National Association for Visually

Handicapped helps people with partial eyesight by supplying visual aids, a free service for SF residents who are HIV+ and losing eyesight. Call for appt.: 221-3201.

Operation Concern's 18th Street Services provides confidential HIV risk reduction education, and free HIV testing. 861-4898.

OUTline: Free HIV info and support using Windows or Macintosh graphic interface. Info: 554-0555 or info@out.org

Pacific Center: Gay and bisexual men's HIV/AIDS support group. Weds., 7pm. 1250 Pine St. #301, Walnut Creek. (510) 939-7711.

Paradigm: Models for Enhancing Life Near Death, serves the terminally ill, free 10-week support group in SF. Call for info: 522-9192.

Positive Humanists and Friends Club: work groups to reevaluate life priorities, look at transcendence. Tues., 7:30pm. Info: 642-3840.

Positive Resource provides work referrals to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening or attend an employment opportunity orientation mtg call 928-1448.

Project Inform: HIV/AIDS treatment info hotline, 558-9051; journal, and educational Town Meetings. 800-822-7422.

Project Open Hand provides free home-delivered hot meals and free groceries to anyone with symptomatic HIV in San Francisco and Alameda Counties. Various ethnic and restricted diets available, plus free nutritional counseling. No waiting list. Call 1-800-551-MEAL.

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida provides peer counseling, legal assistance, workshops, therapy and housing referrals, free. 864-7278.

Q Action: Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-

2ACT.

re plen ish offers individual and group retreats for professional caregivers in the HIV community. Info: Kay, 864-5140 or write PO Box 410592, SF 94141.

SF Suicide Prevention needs Spanish-English bilingual volunteers for Hotline, next training begins Dec. 9. Call 984-1900.

Substance Abuse Counseling for Lesbians and Gay Men at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. Operation Recovery provides affordable, effective treatment. Drop-in groups: for women, 7-8 pm Mondays; for men, 8-9 pm Thursdays. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 Ext. 199.

UCSF AIDS Health Project offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

Under One Roof, the Shop for AIDS Relief, seeks volunteers to work on the sales floor and in the office. Call Mary Beth, 252-9430.

Volunteer haircutters needed for HIV patient services at Davies Med. Ctr. Once a month, 3-hr. shift on Mon. Call Barbara at 565-6374.

Women's Cancer Resource Center: Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families & doctors. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, newsletter, educational programs, legal workshop & more. (510) 548-9272 or 548-WCRC. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Send Health and Community Listings to: Calendar Editor, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

GAY

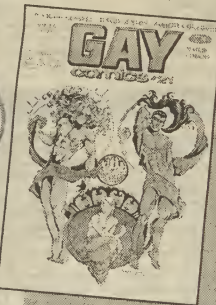
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 200374

The following person(s) are doing business as SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION, 177 Camellian Way, San Francisco, CA 94131: SHAUN, IBRAHIM BIN MAJID, 4154 Wilson Lane, Concord, CA 94521. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Nov. 27, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed SHAUN IBRAHIM B. MAJID. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 27, 1995.

Nov 30, 1995 Dec 7, 14, 21, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 200455

The following person(s) are doing business as RON'S RAINBOW TREASURES, 3886 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114: RONALD LEE NICHOLSON, 4016 18th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed RONALD LEE NICHOLSON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 29, 1995.

Dec 7, 14, 21, 28, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 200185

The following person(s) are doing business as NORAS MARKET, 454 Capitol Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112: ALNER INTERNATIONAL, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORP., 65 Upland Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed ANTHONY WONG. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 15, 1995.

Nov 23, 30, 1995 Dec 7, 14, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 200254

The following person(s) are doing business as VAN NESS BAKERY & CAFE, 1122 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94109: SUY MENG KOR, 941 Morton St., San Mateo, CA 94401. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Nov. 01, 1989. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed SUY MENG KOR. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 17, 1995.

Nov 23, 30, 1995 Dec 7, 14, 1995.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 200203

The following person(s) are doing business as FCE/MAIN STREET ENTERPRISES, 519 Castro St., #80, San Francisco, CA 94114-2511: JONATHAN R. LAVINE, 519 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114-2511. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Nov. 11, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed JONATHAN LAVINE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 16, 1995.

Nov 23, 30, 1995 Dec 7, 14, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 200092

The following person(s) are doing business as TONI'S CONSTRUCTION, 3550 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94110-1532: ANTHONY W. H. WONG, 2425 16th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116-2526. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Jan. 11, 1989. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed ANTHONY WONG. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 10, 1995.

Nov 16, 23, 30, 1995 Dec 7, 1995.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 20078

The following person(s) are doing business as B & D SERVICE UNLIMITED, 1068 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94107: MARK A. DOBIE, 1000 River St., San Francisco, CA 94608. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of November 09, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed MARK A. DOBIE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 09, 1995.

Nov 16, 23, 30, 1995, Dec 7, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 20078

The following person(s) are doing business as B & D SERVICE UNLIMITED, 1068 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94107: MARK A. DOBIE, 1000 River St., San Francisco, CA 94608. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of November 09, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed MARK A. DOBIE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 09, 1995.

Nov 16, 23, 30, 1995, Dec 7, 1995.

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 200309

The following person(s) are doing business as QUEST BBS, 686 Missouri St., San Francisco, CA 94107-2839: QUEST, INC. A DELAWARE CORPORATION, 666 Missouri St., San Francisco, CA 94107-2839. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Nov. 11, 1995. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed STUART F. MCCLAIN, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 21, 1995.

Nov 30, 1995 Dec 7, 14, 21, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 200369

The following person(s) are doing business as CITYNET SF, 1642 Hyde Street, #2, San Francisco, CA 94109: DAVID WAI LAU, 1642 Hyde Street, #2, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed DAVID LAU. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 27, 1995.

Nov 30, 1995 Dec 7, 14, 21, 1995.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 973810

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of ELISABETH PAIGE GRUSKIN for change of name. The application of ELISABETH PAIGE GRUSKIN for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that ELISABETH PAIGE GRUSKIN has filed an application proposing that HER name be changed to ELIZABETH PAIGE GRUSKIN-PONDER. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all person interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 19th of December, 1995, at 9:00 o'clock am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this day of Nov. 7, 1995.

Nov 16, 23, 30, 1995 Dec 7, 1995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 200092

The following person(s) are doing business as TONI'S CONSTRUCTION, 3550 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94110-1532: ANTHONY W. H. WONG, 2425 16th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116-2526. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Jan. 11, 1989. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed ANTHONY WONG. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 10, 1995.

Nov 16, 23, 30, 1995 Dec 7, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 200082

The following person(s) are doing business as INVESTMENT MARKETING GROUP, 870 MARKET STREET, #975, San Francisco, CA 94102: STEVEN A. MACDONALD, 211 Liberty Street, #6, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed STEVEN A. MACDONALD. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 09, 1995.

Nov 16, 23, 30, 1995, Dec 7, 1995.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 973809

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of SHARON LEE PONDER for change of name. The application of SHARON LEE PONDER for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that SHARON LEE PONDER has filed an application proposing that HER name be changed to SHARON LEE GRUSKIN-PONDER. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all person interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 19th of December, 1995, at 9:00 o'clock am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this day of Nov. 7, 1995.

Nov 16, 23, 30, 1995 Dec 7, 1995

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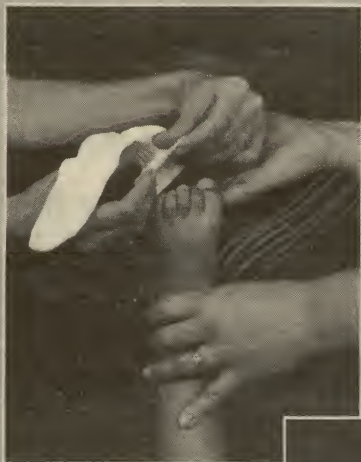
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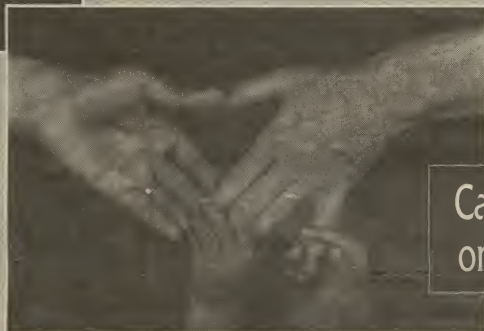
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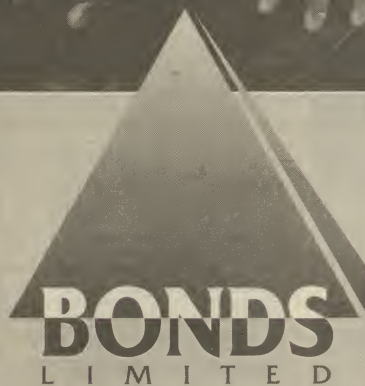
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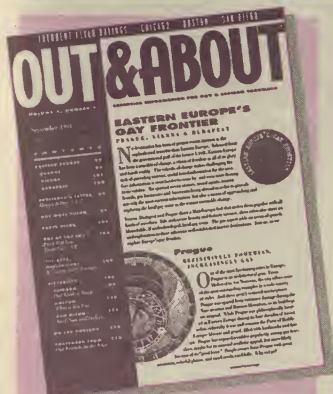
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Mainstream Seduction

What Are the Consequences When Lesbian Authors Leave the Small Presses That Nurtured Them?

by Deborah Peifer

In the past year, several well-known lesbian writers, J.M. Redman, Nicole Conn and Katherine V. Forrest among them, have moved from lesbian presses to mainstream ones.

"Where is their loyalty?" I thought, working myself into a state of medium if not high dudgeon concerning the actions of people I did not know in situations about which I obviously hadn't full knowledge. How could lesbian writers take their books to the mainstream? Didn't they have some kind of obligation to lesbian presses? Did they have the right to bring profits to some heterosexist corporation? After all, an amount that would barely register on the account ledger of a mainstream house could make or break a small lesbian press.

And why, I thought, pulling on my Oliver Stone secret conspiracy hat, was the mainstream so interested in our stuff? Were lesbians the flavor of the month, or (this seemed highly unlikely) part of a brave new multicultural world where books by all manner of writers were welcomed, encouraged, and published? If lesbians were moving up, down or over to mainstream houses, what did that mean in terms of content? Would the move to a main-

Continued on page 42

Gay Tourism Grows Up Traveling Planet Queer

by Wayne Hoffman

The gay travel industry is taking off like a Concorde. Guesthouses, beaches and even cruise ships now cater to gay and lesbian travelers. As the number of destinations and vacationers increases, publications spring up to cover the burgeoning gay travel market. But what makes gay travel distinctive?

"Sometimes being gay is very important to the decisions we make about travel, and sometimes it's entirely irrelevant," says Billy Kolber, editor of the gay travel newsletter *Out & About*. While places like San Francisco, Key West and Provincetown have long been known as gay destinations, gay travelers are increasingly opting for less gay-specific vacation spots, he says.

"We see virtually the entire world as potential destinations for gay travelers," says Kolber. "There are very few places gay people don't travel to either for business or pleasure. We see covering that world as our mission."

Out & About publishes its 16-page, two-color newsletter ten times a year, out of New York. In addition to feature stories about travel spots, the magazine rates guesthouses and restaurants around the world. And not all of those venues are gay.

"The majority of the hotels we write about are not exclusively gay places, but places where a gay couple or single person could feel comfortable not having to hide their sexual orientation," says Kol-

Continued on page 53



Katherine V. Forrest is headed for Putnam.

Photo illustration: Adrian Roberts

In Heavy Rotation

by Adrian Roberts

Tribe 8—Roadkill Cafe
(Alternative Tentacles)

Tribe 8 speaks to me. And I don't mean that facetiously. Their lyrics really hit home sometimes. Take "Wrong Bathroom" for instance, the lead track off their recently released EP, *Roadkill Cafe*. In it, singer Lynn Breedlove recounts an annoying situation that I've found myself in on numerous occasions—the ol' "wrong bathroom" scene.

It goes like this: you're an androgynous femme boy (if you're me) or butch

Continued on page 39

San Francisco's own Tribe 8



SELF-INTERVIEW

Charles Pierce talks to himself

page 41



OUT THERE

What rock star has a new boyfriend? See Out There

page 35

THEATRE

Sick and Twisted find selves in 'Trouble'

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Could a fruit have been behind this Fruit campaign?

by Daniel Mangin,
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Judell

That iconoclastic alternative rock star (clue: eyes blinking while asleep) who's so cagey about his love life is apparently most enamored of an independent filmmaker (flick focusing on a member of the most famous band ever). We wish their relationship all the — discreet, of course — success.

Speaking of salty rumors, floating all over the Internet these days is an old but amusing story about an alleged-to-be-gay superstar who had a shower scene with his cohorts in a military-oriented movie of the '80s. Seems there had to be a lot of retakes because said icon kept getting a hard-on. He's also said to have been caught *in bee-jay delicto*, but here the tale starts sounding like just so much gossip — which is why we've printed it. U be the judge.

Heading onto the Net is an interactive Walker Art Center project by Shu Lea Cheang, whose feature *Fresh Kill* and shorts including the juicy *Sex Fish* have been seen locally. Cheang's complex *Bowling Alley* is a "techno-break-through installation" that links an actual bowling alley, the center, and a World Wide Web site (<http://bowlingalley.walker-art.org>). One of the installation's themes is censorship on the Net.

The fourth annual Gay Erotic Video Awards were held at the Palladium in Hollywood on Dec. 4. This event is going upscale (sort of): RuPaul, John Waters, Clive Barker were among the celebrity judges. Falcon's *The Other Side of Aspen III & IV* nailed down several awards, including best video, cinematography and actor (Chad Knight). The vote for Best Oral Scene ended in a rare tie, with Luc Russell and Knight (*Bad Moon Rising*) and Chris Green, Joe Romero and Jeff Jagger (*Court- ing Libido*) sharing the honors.

Drop-dead gorgeous Ken Ryker was Best Newcomer, while an older comer, Derrick Stanton, was inducted into the GV Hall of Fame. ("He still looks fabulous," says our man on the scene.) Porn star Ren Adams received the Leo Ford Humanitarian Award. (Don't ask us. The program doesn't outline Leo's credentials as a humanitarian, but he was a nice fellow.)

Admission fees plus a silent auction (items included the Confederate uniform worn by Ryan Idol on his 1993 world tour and dinner dates with various porn stars) raised \$125,000 for Aid for AIDS. The event was picketed by fundamentalists, with signs berating performers and attendees for their wanton ways. Bruce Vianch, formerly a writer for Bette Midler, was the funny emcee who kept things moving.

Mr. Jay Church sent us a groovy Fruit of the Loom advertisement in a recent *People* magazine and queried, "What do you think? Should we call GLAAD?" What, and spoil the fun? This is great — even sexier and cheekier than Calvin Klein's kiddie-porn campaign and funnier than the Nut 'n' Honey cereal ad. Could anyone but a queer possibly have been behind this? As for the folks at GLAAD, let's leave them to the work they do best, such as skewering Debra J. Saunders, the *San Francisco Chronicle's* sorry excuse for a social commentator, which they do so well in their latest newsletter.



Pussy Tourette

Here at the B.A.R., our baskets are brimming with ballots for the *Out There* 50 contest — some deserving souls may actually get the recognition they deserve along with a slew of community hamolas. Our favorite ballots so far are the one acknowledging Tom Ammonia (sic) "for really getting the job done" (What? Disinfecting the floors?) and the vote for Pauline Demetrakopolous because "she's the only lesbian dentist in town." (Really?)

Oh yes, and the one congratulating Pussy Tourette "because fame hasn't made her any less of a French bitch." You can catch Pussy, Arturo Galster, Texas Tomboy and a host of others at a Dec. 16 Club Confidential benefit for two local arts groups at the Embassy Lounge, where you'll be able to "take part in a glamorous revisioning of the classic gender-bending elegance of such eras as the 1920s (Paris, Harlem, Greenwich Village) and the 1930s (Hollywood, Berlin) — and then descend into any realm of decadence you can imagine..." Phone 864-5453 for details.

The deadline for *Out There* 50 voting fast approacheth. Ballots (there's one elsewhere on this page) simply must be postmarked



Photo: Michael Tighe

A pre-bald Michael Stipe

by Dec. 12 (or maybe the 13th). Or phone us at 929-7454, but if you're voting more than once, try to disguise your voice better than that drag queen (big hair, pea brain) desperate for validation. Or vote at out50@aol.com, our e-mail address.

The 10th annual Sundance Film Festival announced its line-up last week. Several works of lesbian/gay interest will be on tap, most notably Christopher Munch's *Color of a Brisk and Leaping Day*, a film by the director of *The Hours* and *Times* about "a young Asian man and the early California railway." R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe has a supporting role. Other anxiously awaited films include Mary Heron's *I Shot Andy Warhol*, starring Lili Taylor as Valerie Solanas, the woman who attempted to shoot the famous artist.

Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's film of Vito Russo's gay cinema history tome *The Celuloid Closet* is in the document-

Continued on page 36

2nd Annual Aiva Nidnacs Memorial *Out There* 50

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New Show is Uneasy Blend of 'Les Miz' and 'La Cage' 'Kiss' Turns a Dream Into a Nightmare

by Chad Jones

With all the show tunes, manly prison drama and quippy one-liners, you'd think that *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, the award-winning opus that opened last week at the Orpheum Theatre, would be a Broadway queen's dream come true. Well, sometimes dreams are nightmares set in South American prisons replete with splashy production numbers.

The problem with *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, based on Manuel Puig's novel and more widely known as the 1985 film starring Raul Julia and William Hurt, is that it wants to be too much. The musical's creative team is an impressive one, with perhaps a few too many stars. Composer John Kander, lyricist Fred Ebb (whose work together includes *Cabaret*, *Chicago* and almost the entire Liza Minnelli oeuvre) and gay book author/playwright Terrence McNally (*Love! Valor! Compassion!*) along with director Harold Prince, who went from *Sondheim's Company* to loose *Phantom of the Opera* on the world, have taken Puig's tense, politically and sexually charged tale of a gay man's encounter with a straight prisoner in a Latin American jail and turned it into an uneasy blend of *Les Misérables* and *La Cage aux Folles*.

The disgruntled and oh-so-butch prisoners repeat (and repeat and repeat) the Kander and Ebb version of "Nobody Knows" called "Over the Wall." Life in prison is



Too many all-star cooks may have spoiled *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

hell, the guards torture the prisoners unmercifully, the warden is corrupt and Molina, a gay window dresser imprisoned on a charge of corrupting a minor, has a new cellmate in Valentin, a revolutionary who refuses to relinquish the names of his compatriots. So much for the *Les Miz* part of the story.

The *La Cage* section kicks in when Molina, in an effort to free his mind, if not his body, of his shackles, loses himself in his cinematic memories. His favorite actress is a torchy '40s diva known only as Aurora. When Molina plays out a scene from one of her trashy B-movies, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* becomes a show that

is actually engaging.

Unfortunately, McNally and company have to work in the actual *Spider Woman* motif. Whenever anyone in the prison dies, Aurora shows up wearing a web-covered gown and sings about how the soon-to-die man must kiss her spider lips. This is where fantasy and reality are supposed to collide, but the result is really and fantastically ludicrous.

Chita works — but not that hard

Venerable Broadway trooper Chita Rivera is the one thing in the show that works, and even she doesn't work that hard. As stars

get older, they wisely surround themselves with beefy chorus boys who do an awful lot of lifting and running about, thus concealing the fact that the star doesn't have to do much more than extend a finely shaped leg a few times and keep up for a few rounds of huffy-puffy line dancing.

Rivera looks stunning in her bobbed wig and gorgeous, campy costumes (by Florence Klotz), but her character has no character. Aurora may be a "real" actress in old movies, but the Aurora of this show is the fantasy of a gay man in prison. All she has to do is show up and be fabulous, which Rivera does with panache.

But then she has to turn into the *Spider Woman* and crawl around on the massive jail-bars set in a safety harness and coax tortured men to die. Rivera won a Tony Award for this cipher of a role and has been doing it for the past four years. Right about now even her past flops like *Bring Back Birdie* are probably starting to look pretty good.

Director Prince's showmanship provides the fluid, cinematic pacing he brought to *Evita*, a show *Kiss* resembles mightily but with many more prison sets. What Prince does not contribute is a

sense of dramatic pacing. When the politically charged Valentin starts getting into the anthem "The Day After That," you expect big, powerful, important things to happen as the song builds.

So what happens? A few peasants holding framed photographs and fake candles wear a lot of clothes and try to fill up the stage. What should be an important "raise the barricades and fight the bastards" moment falls flat.

Too-zingy one-liners

Leading actors Dorian Harewood, as Valentin, and Juan Chioran, as Molina, are dutiful and do the best they can with McNally's one-liners that would be too zingy even for the Broadway musical version of *Wigstock*. Both actors have fine voices, but Kander and Ebb's largely forgettable score doesn't give them much to work with in character-establishing songs like "Dressing Them Up" or "She's a Woman."

The one affecting song is the quartet "Dear One" sung by Molina and Valentin in prison and Molina's mother (Merle Louise) and Valentin's girlfriend (Lauren Goler-Kosarin) on the outside.

The best moments in this *Kiss* are Rivera's kitschy production numbers "Where You Are," "Gimme Love" and "Russian Movie/Good Times." Chorus boys throb, Rivera poses and feathered costumes flutter. The show tunes swing and some life enters the old cellblock.

When Molina and Aurora finally come together in the fantasy-collides-with-reality finale, Molina shouts "viva" this and "viva" that. You almost hope he'll shout, "Viva Las Vegas!" and Rivera will come downstage and join him in a tribute to Lola Falana. Just about anything would be preferable to the empty dramatic shell that *Kiss of the Spider Woman*'s star-studded creative team tries to pass off as important musical theater. ▼

Kiss of the Spider Woman continues through December 23 at the Orpheum Theatre. Call 776-1999 for information.

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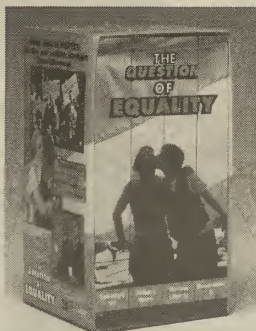
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KQED
BOOKS

Out There

Continued from page 35

tary competition. (Rob and Jeff must really have crossed Aiva Nidnaes somewhere along the line. How else to explain the omission of these most important locals from last year's *Out There* 50? You the readers are more discerning; they'll definitely receive recognition this time.)

Also among the docs is Barbara Hammer's autobiographical *Tender Fictions*. Hammer, who had just jetted back to New York from South Africa, where she's become involved with the emerging lesbian/gay community there, told *Out There* she'd decided to "construct an autobiography before someone does it for me." Has she taken liberties with the truth? If not she's certainly had a wild life. Hammer says *Tender* includes scenes in which she robs an American Express bank in Morocco with a Swiss army, accosts a shepherd in a field on International Women's Day and tap dances on Shirley Temple's star on Hollywood Boulevard.

Oh yes, Sundance is also screening Todd Verow's *Frisk*, a.k.a. the movie with the heart of cold. SF may have forsaken the gay serial-killer pic, but it's being embraced elsewhere. It's headed



Barbara Hammer

to the prestigious Berlin Film Festival as well. By the by, we hear that one of *Frisk*'s stars is now working for Falcon, but have yet to confirm this. We presume it isn't cherubic Raoul O'Connell, who has professed to loftier career aspirations. Well, that leaves...

One last Sundance entry that hopefully will appear here is Scott Silver's *Johns*, about the hustling scene on LA's Santa Monica Boulevard. Lovely Lukas Haas (who has shed substantial screen

Continued on next page

Soviets Persecuted Director Sergei Paradjanov for Homosexuality Time Passes 'Shadows' By

by Matthew Kennedy

Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors, the 1964 film from Armenian director Sergei Paradjanov, is a prime example of how carelessly the word "masterpiece" is thrown around. Hyperbole for *Shadows* has been practiced since its premiere, more perhaps for the drama of the filmmaker's life than for the merits of the movie.

Paradjanov (1924-1990) was many things — painter, musician, filmmaker, singer and sodomite. *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*, his most celebrated work, won kudos at several international film festivals and the esteem of thousands. The Soviet government, however, objected to its decadence and political symbolism. Paradjanov was subsequently marked, watched, persecuted and blacklisted. He managed only one more film in the 1960s, the visually sumptuous *Color of Pomegranates*.

In 1974, he was sentenced to six years hard labor under Article 121 of the Soviet Criminal Code. His crime was homosexuality. It might be tempting to claim him as martyr on a par with Oscar Wilde, but his case included black marketing, accusations of political dissidence, spreading venereal disease and an incorrigible hankering for diamonds and antique furniture. No doubt many charges were manufactured by a rabidly homophobic society, but by all accounts Paradjanov was difficult. At a meeting in New York, he stared at film historian Vito Russo's butt and called him a "fourth-class homosexual." This was followed by a hearty hug.

With rising international protests, Paradjanov was released



Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors ran afoul of Soviet government.

from prison in 1978. Still, he was denied an exit visa, sold his old possessions to survive and was imprisoned again in 1982. Under Gorbachev's glasnost, he was permitted to resume his career as film director in 1985 with *The Legend of Suram Fortress*. Unbowed by political terrorism, Paradjanov gave this project a homoerotic tinge alongside the customary visual excesses. His autobiographical film, *Confession*, was never completed, and he died in 1990 at 66 of lung cancer.

Inexplicable praise and damnation

The critics' praising and government's damning of *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors* both seem nearly inexplicable 31 years later. *Shadows* is a Romeo and Juliet tale of warring families and lost

love set in a 19th-century Carpathian mountain village. Its ability to incite Ukrainian nationalism, as was claimed by the Soviet government, would seem limited. The primary strengths of *Shadows* are ethnographic as Paradjanov invests extended time on music, dance, clothing, worship and a vivid wedding ceremony.

The uncommon glimpse of an isolated time and place may account for the film's heady reception. The tale's inept execution, however, is hard to ignore. Belying the spirit of realism and cultural fidelity, Paradjanov uses something akin to headlights to illuminate his scenes. More than once badly placed light casts the camera's shadow into the action. A rainstorm appears to occupy a square yard and drench only one

actor. At another moment, someone out of camera range was flicking an overhead light on and off to simulate lightning. This may be quibbling, but it's no fun to be distracted by technique and method.

Paradjanov shows no more skill with his actors. The leading players are upstaged by bright colors, jumpy editing and a camera hell-bent on swirling in circles or peeking through the bushes. His actors sometimes look in odd directions, apparently for cues, and then exit abruptly.

Yes, the images of cinematographer Yuri Ilyenko can be gorgeous, as when a wooden barge consumes the entire screen then recedes down a darkened river. The music is sometimes intoxicating.

But so many Monty Python parodies later, it may be hard to stifle a few giggles as one man lunges toward the camera with an ax to be followed by red dye oozing over the lens. It is even harder to muster much emotional involvement in such a self-conscious enterprise. Movies age, some better than others. The coffee-table prettiness and various other assets of *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors* strain after years of myth building. ▼

Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors plays the Castro Theatre Dec. 8-14 with other Paradjanov films in repertory. Call (415) 621-6120 for showtimes.

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Out There

Continued from page 36

innocence since his days as Kelly McGillis's Amish son in *Witness*) stars as a soCal rentboy, whose best friend is played by yet another Arquette (David).

In the November *Interview*, NBA star and former Madonna beau Dennis Rodman expanded on his statement that he patronizes gay bars: "Oh yeah. They're great. Got the best music there, got the best atmosphere." (He obviously doesn't hit some of the dumps in this town.) "I got a lot of gay friends out there. So sometimes I hang out and chill out with my gay friends in gay bars. ... Doesn't mean people have to consider me as gay or bisexual."

Our New York correspondent Brandon Judell, chatting with Jeff Bridges right before World AIDS Day, asked the actor about how he'd been impacted by the disease. He alluded to some friends in the profession who had died of AIDS and spoke about Elizabeth Glaser. "My wife was having her baby right alongside Elizabeth Glaser. ... She died because she had a blood transfusion, and that could have easily been my wife. If my wife needed blood that would have been her. So I guess on that day, we can think, 'There but for the grace of God...' and do as much as we can for the people who have AIDS."

Queers still holding a grudge against Sharon Stone for playing a bisexual killer in *Basic Instinct* may have to bury the ice pick following the Dec. 1 announcement that she's replacing Elizabeth Taylor as head fundraiser for the American Foundation for AIDS



Sharon Stone

Research. Stone is supposed to raise \$76 million over the next four years. Shouldn't be a problem. If conventional methods don't work she can always wave her *BI* weapon in people's faces and tell 'em to cough up or a 'stabbin' she will go.

Hot! International Gay: Love and Sex in Seven Languages, a diverting little stocking stuffer, came our way this week. It's an absolute must for your world-traveler friends, lest they be caught anywhere in Europe and not know how to communicate to prospective and actual bedmates such key phrases as "Slower, please"; "I'd like some titclamps"; "Take the handcuffs off!" (better memorize that one, as it might be hard to grab the phrase book at the crucial moment); and (a refrain Ms. Joan Jett Blakk often hears on vacation and even at home) "Watch your nails!" ▼

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THEATRE



Two girls at a boarding school try Mother Superior's patience in *The Trouble With Angels*.

Nice Set, But...

Trouble With Angels Gets Twisted Players Treatment

by Jerry Metzger

While Danny Scheie's delightful all-male production of *The Desk Set* is wowing audiences on Theatre Rhino's mainstage, Tony Vaguely's *Sick and Twisted Players* are currently encamped in the Rhino studio, presenting their gender-bending version of *The Trouble With Angels*.

Once again Vaguely adapts and directs, this time from the 1966 film starring Rosalind Russell and Hayley Mills about two girls at a Catholic boarding school whose shenanigans drive the Mother Superior and the other nuns crazy.

Like all *Sick and Twisted* productions, *The Trouble With Angels* is a campy and bizarre near-replica of the film. Jazizi Capuccino dons Catholic schoolgirl duds to play mischievous Mary Clancy (the Hayley Mills role), who has already been booted out of a host of other private schools. Evan Brenner plays her cohort Rachel Devery.

Basically, the film (and play) highlight a series of essentially harmless schemes perpetrated by the duo, including the building of

a nonremovable plaster mask on Mary's cousin (Lil' Seanetta) and a long-term, secret smoking binge that puts the school in a fire panic.

Unfortunately, this production lacks the pizzazz of a typical *Sick and Twisted* adaptation. In fact, it's rather sedate by any standard. Missing are the rude sexual overtones - and any take on this film could be ripe with them - and the physical comedy that Vaguely generally fashions so well. As a result, the show drags along, relying a little too much on the audience's knowledge of the film.

Another weakness is the cast. Instead of using his usual principal players, Vaguely has cast their back-ups in lead roles. It shows. Line flubs and occasional giggles are not uncommon in *Sick and Twisted* productions, but these performers fall out of sync on a

far-too-regular basis.

Fortunately, Matthew Morin (in the Rosalind Russell Mother Superior role) is as grim and eloquent as can be. With his stern demeanor and heavy eyebrows he's nearly a demon. Vaguely himself gives a brief, but priceless performance as a wacky, New Age movement instructor.

If only Vaguely had spent as much time and creative energy on the adaptation as he did on the set. It is by far the most accomplished the *Sick and Twisted* have ever designed, taking advantage of parts of Rhino's studio that are rarely, if ever, used. A good set, however, is not enough to make a show work. ▼

***The Trouble With Angels* continues at the Rhino Studio through December 23. Call 861-5079 for tickets.**

Crack Those Nuts



Seattle comedy duo Dos Fallopi joins forces with local comedian Mark Davis to present *Holiday Nutcrackin'*, Wed.-Sun., Dec. 13-31, at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint. The show features a potpourri of dysfunctional characters including mother-daughter country superstars The Spudds (Euomi and Wynotta), mother of the decade Mavis Davis (mother of Mark), British grunge rockers The Surly Bitches, the blues world's oldest living duo, the Matrons of Blues, and more. Performances are at 8 p.m. each night, with 10 p.m. shows Fri. and Sat. Call 861-7933 for reservations. ▼

Photo: Benham Studio Gallery

Rotation

Continued from cover

punk girl (if you're in Tribe 8) driving across the country. You pull into a truck stop to take a leak. In the rest room, stupid people harass you, mistaking your gender and thinking that you've got the wrong bathroom. Annoying? You bet.

So leave it to Tribe 8 to write a smart punk song about it. Mixing aggravation with sarcasm has become Tribe 8's calling card, and this song is no exception. Breedlove taunts her antagonists with great lines such as, "Yeah, my hair's pink, I'm the missing link; you don't have a missing-link bathroom!" Later, she sings, "Simple minds know two kinds, and I'm number three; you and Rush don't know shit about me, so let me pee."

While it's by far the best track on the EP, the other tunes, which were all recorded live, aren't bad either. "Radar Love" is a fantastic version of the 1972 Golden Earring hit. Another cover, "Ice Cream Man," is a slower number, while the fast and driving "Manipulate" showcases the band as the all-out dyke punks you've come to know and love.

The Blue Up?—*Spool Forka Dish* (Columbia)

Although I get free cassettes and CDs sent to me all the time, the sad truth of the matter is that most of them are shit. Occasionally though, something shows up that amazes me—something that grabs me by the ears and hurls me to the ground. This is exactly what happened upon my first listen to The Blue Up?

A swirling maelstrom of layered female vocals and ethereal



Rachael Olson, singer and guitarist for Minneapolis' The Blue Up?

guitars, *Spool Forka Dish* is a veritable masterpiece. Since the album appeared mysteriously in my mailbox—with no bio, no photo, and no press kit—I had no idea who this magical band was. Some friends from Minnesota finally filled in the blanks: The Blue Up? is an all-female trio from Minneapolis led by silver-haired singer-guitarist Rachael Olson. Though they've been around for over ten years, they just got signed to Columbia last year, who apparently had no idea how to market the band. They've since been dropped by the label, and are still languishing in obscurity, despite the fact that the album came out over six months ago.

Along with drummer Renee

Bracchi and bassist Carolyn Rush, The Blue Up? creates a sound that's difficult to label—which is exactly the idea. Ethereal rock is the best tag I could come up with. "Breathe You Out" is a furious rocker made distinctive by Rachael's unique voice, which evokes either Kate Bush or Siouxsie Sioux, depending on which part of the verse you're talking about. "Beautiful Hysterical" is an intense acoustic song, while "Blasting XTC" is a loopy, chirpy ode to XTC (the band, not the drug).

Rapturous, spiritual, beautiful, dreamy, haunting, psychedelic—these are all adjectives that could be applied to The Blue Up? This album should be huge. It should

be the biggest thing since sliced bread—or at least since the Cranberries. It should sell gazillions of copies because it is so damn good. Yet it seems like I'm the only one who's ever heard it. Trust me, this is a travesty. Go out and buy this record *now*.

Menswear—*Nuisance* (London)

Okay, look, I'll fess up. Menswear earns a place in my CD player for hormonal reasons more than anything else. I like them for the same reason I was enthralled by Duran Duran as a teenager: the band is frighteningly good-looking. And—oh yeah—the music's not bad either.

Snotty brats with great fashion sense, Menswear encompass all that is both endearing and annoying about Brit-pop. You want to like

them because they're young and pretty, and they write bright, guitar-based pop songs that are catchy enough to hum in your sleep. At the same time, though, they verily reek of pretentious attitude, not to mention the fact that there's nothing original about their ripping off the best that British rock has offered up over the past 30 years.

"Sleeping In" sounds sort of like the Beatles, while "Hollywood Girl" recalls Squeeze. Elsewhere, shades of Wire, the Kinks, and the Jam make themselves apparent. Think of them as sort of the male version of Elastica, though that's probably not doing Justice's band any justice. While there may not be anything especially inventive about Menswear, they do fulfill their roles beautifully as future *Tiger Beat* pin-ups. And hey, if Blur and Suede can do it, why can't they? ▼



The cute boys in Britain's flavor of the month, Menswear

Photo: Donald Milne

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Photo: Alan Purcell

OPERA

Antonin Dvorak's *Rusalka*

Welcome Wonder

by Paul Thomason

For serious opera lovers these are sadly decadent times. Producers and directors often delight in rewriting the stories of operas they are supposed to be serving, and they habitually ruin any purely musical moments, like overtures and interludes, with gratuitous stage business.

Musically, things are not much better. A generation of singers has come along which apparently believes that simply reproducing the words and notes of their parts on stage is all they have to do. And, alas, an increasing number of conductors seem either unwilling, or unable, to generate emotionally satisfying performances - from either the orchestra or the singers. (Not that many music critics are doing their jobs any better: a distressing number of them seem to have no idea that there is an objective way to evaluate singing, or that a critic should not listen with his eyes.)

All of which is why the opening performance of the San Francisco Opera's new production of Antonin Dvorak's *Rusalka* Sunday afternoon (November 26) was nothing short of a wonder. The physical production, originally by Günther Schneider-Siemssen with costumes by Dietmar Solt, was as ravishing to the eye as it was appropriate to Dvorak's soulful, colorful score. And under the leadership of principal guest conductor Sir Charles Mackerras (who was leading *Rusalka* for the first time in his career), the musical performances could hardly have been better. Certainly the orchestra has not sounded this good all season. Rhythms were precise and alive; phrases had definite beginnings, middles and ends; and time after time an instrumental timbre pointed up the exact emotional color of a scene on stage. Even the oboes played musically and with a rich, warm sound.

Fortunately, almost all the singers were superb. Perhaps the biggest surprise of the afternoon was tenor Sergei Larin (the Prince), who truly sounded the way a fairy-tale prince should sound: ardent, heroic and with enough gleaming high notes to kill a dragon or wake up any sleeping princess.

Touching portrayal

Not that anyone, on stage or off, was sleeping through this performance. Not with soprano Renée Fleming (*Rusalka*) offering one of the most complete, well-rounded and touching portrayals of any character seen at the War Memorial Opera House this season. Her third act was heartbreaking. Though Fleming's voice sounded as sumptuous as ever when she was singing strongly or



Photo: Mary Soli

Soprano Renée Fleming in *Rusalka*.

in the upper part of her range, a fluttering or breathy quality sometimes marred her middle voice and soft singing. Still, most sopranos would kill for such a voice. Given Fleming's artistry, it seems downright curmudgeonly to complain that local opera-goers were not given the chance to see the great Gabriela Benackova as *Rusalka*, a role that might have been written for her, during at least some of the performances.

As the witch Jezibaba, mezzo Felicity Palmer was an unalloyed delight, displaying a dark, rich chest voice that was equally capable of cackling with the best of 'em, or phrasing sensitively and compassionately - depending on what Dvorak wanted.

Both bass-baritones Philip Skinner (the Water Spirit) and Bojan Knezevic (the Hunter) were effective, and tenor Michel Senechal (the Gamekeeper) and mezzo Zheng Cao (the Kitchen Boy) were delightful. Sopranos

Nicolle Foland and Kristin Clayton, plus mezzo Pamela Dillard, contributed strongly to the performance as the three Wood Nymphs.

Unfortunately, an unruly, harsh top to her voice ruined soprano Stephanie Sundine's Foreign Princess.

The last performance of *Rusalka* will be broadcast live on KDFC 102.1 FM, Sunday afternoon, December 10. The broadcast begins at 1:30 p.m.; the opera starts at 2 p.m. Following the performance, at 5:45 p.m., the War Memorial Opera House doors will be open to the general public for a party in the North, Central and South Lobbies, with champagne, dessert, entertainment and door prizes. ▼

Performances of *Rusalka* continue in repertoire through December 10. Starting times vary. For tickets (\$21-\$125) and further information, call (415) 864-3330.

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Is There Life After Drag?

Charles Pierce Interviews Charles Pierce

by Charles Pierce

From 1954 to 1990, Charles Pierce entertained nightclub goers from London to Hawaii. For six years he and his partner, Rio Dante, performed at The Gilded Cage on Ellis Street in San Francisco. He co-starred with Harvey Fierstein in *Torch Song Trilogy*. He can be seen acting on *Designing Women*, *Wonder Woman* and other television reruns. He has several videos out in stores. He recently turned down an offer to return to show biz in a play headed for Broadway, saying it was simply "too much work."

Today, Mr. Pierce lives by himself in North Hollywood, drives a 10-year-old car, has no pets, "not even a goldfish." If anyone is interested, he has a Victorian house for sale in Watertown, New York. "Gay couples are moving there, believe it or not." Since he is known for talking to himself at great lengths, *Bay Area Reporter* asked him if he would put some thoughts down on paper. The following are the salient excerpts from his lengthy bout of introspection.

Charles: When was the last time you were in drag? What show?

Pierce: No show. I went to Phyllis Diller's Halloween Party, not in '95 but in '94, as Norma Desmond. I went with Bea Arthur, who also dressed as Norma Desmond. We caused quite a stir.

Charles: But when was your last stage performance?

Pierce: June 1994. I appeared in New York at "Town Hall" with an impersonation show that included Charles Busch, Milton Berle, the Grand Court of New York and their guest, Jose Sarria. Also Randy Allen, who did Bette Davis as she looked in later life. Oh, the sadness of it all. The Gods can be cruel. Randy died 12 months later. His Bette Davis character was in an off-Broadway play and he rehearsed right up to the first preview but was unable to go on. He was replaced by a woman. As good as she might be, no woman can replace a man doing Bette Davis. The show opened and only ran four nights.

Charles: How did you get started in the biz?

Pierce: I began my nightclub career in September 1954. That was the year Elvis hit mainstream audiences. I hit the stage of a little club in Altadena, California called Club LaVie. I worked in a tux with a box of props — a headband for Bette at a dressing room table or one of those pith helmets for Kate Hepburn in *The African Queen*. Naturally, I enhanced it with yards of veiling. I was paid the enormous sum of \$75 a week and an evening meal, which consisted of a hamburger.

Charles: What's the difference between a drag queen and an impersonator?

Pierce: When I started working in drag I wore gowns in keeping with my characters and the makeup. "Full-face," as we used to say, was never overdone. No huge lips, glitter on the eyelids, rouge. I was an impersonator and not a "drag queen." Up to the late '80s, the performers who worked the clubs and theaters in drag were Lynne Carter, T.C. Jones, Craig Russell, Dame Edna, Divine, Big Jimmy, Fel Andrews, Arthur Blake and

myself. We were never drag queens. Then, a drag queen was not an entertainer but someone who had a job other than show biz, who came home from work, got himself up in some outlandish costume or frock and went sailing off to a party or a drag ball. There is an odd line there, I know, but I will always draw it.

Charles: What would you say was your greatest failing?

Pierce: Trusting a lover. Trusting a lover with my love. That's why I am "living alone and I like it." That was a Sophie Tucker number and Bette Davis had a song out called "Single." Living alone is OK for a while but it is nice "to have a man around the house." Another song from my era.

Charles: Of course you're not the only gay man who lives alone. I agree with you about lovers and the problem with keeping a lover.

Continued on page 52



Charles

Pierce

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BOOKS

Mainstream

Continued from cover

stream press automatically mean a dilution of lesbian-ness?

Being possessed of many questions and no answers I decided that it was time for a quest, at least by phone. Perhaps lesbian writers and publishers, women with a compelling interest in the questions that I was asking, could provide the answers.

When I ask my question about lesbian loyalty, I get a blunt response from Barbara Grier of Naiad Press. "When you ask about lesbian loyalty, I think it's silly." Grier argues that the real question is not one of loyalty, but of what the smaller presses have to offer that is missing in the mainstream. "Small presses offer service; we treat our authors like human beings, and our books stay in print."

Grier thinks that the larger presses are largely indifferent to their product — books — and ignorant of it. She sees very little, if any, hands-on editing at mainstream houses. "Years ago," she says, "the most prestigious thing was to be published by a small press, and the quality of the editing had a great deal to do with that. But now, writers are seduced by a different kind of prestige: they worry that they won't be reviewed in the *New York Times*, that they won't be in every airport in America. Authors are like actors, like a ten year old standing at the fence, bouncing up and down crying choose me."

Money not the issue

I wonder about the money. Is the dream of the great fortune to be made in the mainstream part of its charm? Grier insists that "money is not really the issue. Al-



Photo: Mary Vazquez

Lesléa Newman "made a career" at lesbian presses.

though lesbian houses cannot offer huge advances, remember that they are advances against future royalties. A lesbian writer can make as much in royalties at Naiad as at a mainstream house." For Grier, then, my questions are not relevant to the real issue, which is the quality of service that small presses offer to the writer.

Lee Boojamra of Rising Tide Press echoes Grier's comments about the quality of editing at a small press. She and partner Alice Frier do hands-on editing, and, unlike mainstream presses, they "will work without a contract if a manuscript shows promise. We are willing to go through the fourth or fifth draft if necessary."

Boojamra sees her role as providing her writers a reality check. "Lesbian presses have a more realistic view," she says. "Lesbian writers have a dream, but they don't have a global view or political sense of the marketplace. They think that with a mainstream press, they'll have a better chance for a review in the *New York Times*."

"Most writers are not aware that big presses lack interest in or awareness of marketing this work. I understand that authors are afraid of being cubby-holed," she says, but argues that the real danger is not the ghetto, but the remainder table. A singular contribution of lesbian presses to writers and readers, Boojamra says, is that "small press books stay in print. They are not remaindered and they don't disappear after a year or two."

Author stands by her press

Jean Stewart is the author of three novels, all published by Rising Tide. "It's a political act to put your [lesbian] characters out there," she insists. She's been told that if she left out the sex and the sexuality, she could move to the mainstream, but, she asks "what would be the point? Look at what's being published in mainstream houses. Not lesbian books, but books written by lesbians, with sexuality minimized. Sure, that's the writer's choice, but why is sexuality *not there* in so many mainstream books? Isn't it more likely that someone at the press is uncomfortable with lesbian sexuality?"

Stewart believes that "I wouldn't be able to write the kind of story I wanted to at a mainstream press." She doesn't think the move to the mainstream is a question of disloyalty, and she understands the temptation involved in "the possibility of attaining the dream of earning a living as a writer."

But she worries about the effect on the spirit when writers leave lesbian houses. "If the sexuality is hidden, or if characters are not sexual, they're assumed to be straight. It's too easy for lots of gays and lesbians to pass as straight. If, as a writer, you choose to pass, then you attain your dream at the price of your soul. I

don't think that lesbian presses should go out of business — these are dangerous times with gays and lesbians at the top of the list of scapegoats."

What the mainstream offers

Lesléa Newman has been published by several presses, from New Victoria to Putnam. "I haven't made lots of money with lesbian presses," says Newman, "but I've made a career."

According to Newman, mainstream presses usually start a book in hard cover — which means library sales, a higher cover price and a wider audience. Lesbian presses start all or most of their books in paperback. And the larger advances mainstream publishers offer can give a writer the luxury of concentrating on the art and craft of writing. As for editing, "I've had extraordinary editors at both small and large presses," she says.



Barbara Grier

Newman argues that the question of loyalty is too simplistic. "Each book has its own home. My job as a writer is to find it." Not that she isn't aware of her position as a lesbian writer. "We all help each other. Sales in the mainstream lead readers to other books, published by the smaller presses, by the same author. Those readers may discover other small-press authors they enjoy. And success in a small press may lead to the mainstream." Newman sees the movement among presses as circular, rather than a move up or down.

I ask Newman the content question. She ponders for a moment, and then asks, "Will lesbians 'dyke down' or 'glam up' their books in order to achieve mainstream success? Both choices are the result of our not being true to ourselves."

Newman was approached by Ballantine to edit an anthology of lesbian love poetry. She was dis-

Continued on page 43

Four Authors Win Honors

by Brandon Judell

The Ferro-Grumley Awards were handed out in New York last month in a highly un-publicized event that nevertheless drew some top authors and editors. The awards were created in memory of authors (and lovers) Robert Ferro and Michael Grumley.

Annually, a panel selects a gay and a lesbian author for his and her novel of quality that came out during the previous year. The bestowees receive a check and ego reinforcement. In 1989, Dennis Cooper and Ruthann Robson won. Last year Jeanette Winterson and John Berendt cashed in. For 1995, Heather Lewis (*House Rules*) and Mark Merlis (*American Studies*) were deemed the champions of queer prose. They were popular choices.

Stephen Greco, who helped administer these laurels, noted that the selection committee "had a lot of problems this year that the Emmy Awards didn't. We had a lot of choices."

The striking Lewis, attired in a tasteful men's suit, with her rich brown tresses reaching past shoulder length, smiled as she accepted her \$1,000 honor. "My landlord will be really glad I got this," Mark Merlis followed her with "Everyone swore I didn't have to make a speech, so I don't have one."

The presenter of the Robert Chesley 1995 Gay and Lesbian Playwriting Award wondered aloud, perhaps inappropriately, "Maybe theater has outlived its



Photo: Gene Baginato

Book awards are half-named for Robert Ferro, above.

usefulness," before noting that the winner was Victor Lodato, for *House of Tricks*. Mr. Lodato was in South America, so a friend accepted.

The major prize of the night was the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement in Lesbian and Gay Literature. Mr. Whitehead had been one of the first edi-

tors in the country to champion queer writers, besides working with Anne Rice and Buckminster Fuller. Past recipients included Audre Lorde, James Purdy, and Samuel R. Delaney.

The 1995 winner was Jonathan Ned Katz, whose numerous books include *Gay American History: Lesbians and Gay Men in the U.S.A.* and *The Invention of Heterosexuality*. Some credit him with almost single-handedly opening up the field of gay history.

A humble Katz strode onto the stage, thanked his lover of 20 years and noted that growing up he was a "silent sissy" who listened while brother raved on about Tito and his dad praised Stalin. He

ended with "Please remember we're in the age of the plague. ...Let us not destroy ourselves from within." ▼

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Mainstream

Continued from page 42

mayed when poets whose work she admired submitted poetry that was decidedly asexual. The writers told her they assumed they couldn't get into a Ballantine book without toning down the lesbian content. Newman was appalled at the self-censorship. When her anthology, *My Lover is a Woman: Contemporary Lesbian Love Poems*, appears in the spring, it will contain the hottest lesbian poetry she could find. Here, at least, is an author whose mainstream successes have given her the clout to resist dyking down.

Maintaining Integrity

"Lesléa Newman is great because she takes us all with her," says Beth Dingman of New Victoria Press. Dingman sees Newman as a writer whose commitment to lesbian politics remains strong regardless of where she publishes, but she worries that not all authors can maintain their integrity when lured by the mainstream: "I think lesbian writers should think about the politics of their decision [to leave a lesbian press] because the loss of a big seller can severely damage a small press." Dingman sees the small presses as part of a larger community. "We are looking for everybody to participate in the process: readers, writers, editors, publishers."

Dingman worries about the content question as well. "Everything is getting bigger; when there are more conglomerates, we lose voices. If we lose the independent presses, everyone will be reading the same book, and it won't have any lesbians in it."

Sarah Dreher's novels, all published by New Victoria, always have lesbians in them. She says, "I feel a real loyalty to New Victoria — they took a risk with me. In a way, we've grown up together." She understands that money is a big issue, "but my fantasy about

mainstream publishing is that you get the money and they make you give up your soul."

Dreher hopes that lesbian writers won't abandon lesbian presses. "We need each other so we can all survive," she argues. "But," Dreher says firmly, "there can't be a rule about this. Every woman has the right and the obligation to make her own decision."

Obligation not as strong today

I speak in person with local writer Katherine V. Forrest. After more than ten years as a writer and editor, Forrest left Naiad to sign a two-book deal with Putnam. I ask her if lesbian writers have an obligation to lesbian presses. "Not today," she responds forthrightly. "I think we have no more of a duty than a mainstream writer does. I look at the move of lesbian writers to the mainstream as evidence that our dreams have come true. After all, lesbian and gay presses came into existence because no one else would touch our work."

Forrest lauds "the pioneering women who created the small presses and perceived what the mainstream never saw — that there is a gay and lesbian audience. We are a significant, literate, affluent audience."

Forrest continues, "Mainstream presses will be measuring the viability of that audience. Will the advances on royalties be earned back? In a way, the mainstream presses are exhibiting an act of faith in both lesbian and gay writers and readers."

But what if we are the flavor of the month? "I don't worry about that because there will always be a place for the small presses, for niche publishing." Forrest argues that "we won't disappear because we're out of the closet and we're not going back." Forrest is encouraged by the mainstream's interest in lesbian and gay writers. She sees this interest not as validation, but as "our reward for being visible."

As you can see, there is no final word on the questions I raised at the beginning of this piece. The intelligent and talented women with whom I spoke had many thoughts, but no definitive answers. Perhaps, given the astonishing variety in the lesbian communities, that is as it should be. Let me close then, not with the solution to my conundrum, but with some Talmudic wisdom:

"If not I for myself, who will be for me?"

But if I am for myself alone, what am I?

And if not now, when?" ▼

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THEATRE



The holiday season is anything but joyous for the jailbirds in *Women's Prison Christmas*.

Absolute Incarceration

by Chad Jones

Talk about doing time: *Women's Prison Christmas*, the Artful Circle Theatre's second tuneful, Yuletide offering (the other is the entertaining *Christmas With the Crawfords*), is 75 minutes of absolute incarceration at the New Conservatory Theatre. With *Kiss of the Spider Woman* also on the local boards, this makes it two too many prison musicals in town.

What should be a droll, campy send-up of women's prison B-movies serves up only intermittent laughter and intriguing songs that seem terribly out of place. The biggest problem is the book by F. Allen Sawyer, who also directs, and Mark Sargent, also the evening's composer.

Their story takes place in a women's prison on Christmas Eve where Amelia, the overbearing warden, has canceled Christmas, much to the dismay of the six inmates, the newest of which is Marie, a woman who stuck by her husband even while he robbed a gas station. The other inmates include Kitty, the queen bee of the cellblock; Dot, her gal Friday; Polly, a nutcase who is only capable of spewing lines of dialogue from old movies; and Brenda, the platinum-blond tramp with the requisite heart of gold. Aside from the warden, there's Edna - Eddie - the gal-loving matron, and the kind-hearted male prison doctor.

It's a pretty uninteresting bunch, and the plot Sawyer and Sargent involve them in is just as uninteresting. The most exciting

thing that happens is a riot during which Marie has her immaculately conceived baby.

Book doesn't support score

The book doesn't have nearly the comedy or the creativity to support the musical score, which is a shame because Sargent's eight original songs are quite good. With their bluesy, '50s rock 'n' roll-like flair, the songs provide the only moments when the show springs to life.

From Marie's twangy solo, "Solitary Baby," to the ensemble's "Jailhouse Rock"-like "There Ain't No Christmas in a Women's Prison," Sargent's ear-pleasing tunes and just-right lyrics actually let the actresses display their talent.

Continued on page 45

Joni Morris Re-Creates Late Singer's Act Homage to Patsy

by Robin Sweeney

Patsy Cline's lush country and western sound is a staple of queerdom's psych-chic jukebox, particularly since the release of the film *Desert Hearts*. And why not? Patsy Cline was a fabulous singer who sang about lost love, had a rocky marriage and died in a plane crash at a tragically young age. She's a perfect nominee for queer iconhood.

Which is why Joni Morris's show *A Portrait of Patsy Cline* had the potential for being greatly entertaining. Impersonation of this sort combines skills at mimicry, genuine talent and a fan's homage. But it truly breaks



Patsy, in a country mood.

through when the audience forgets the performer isn't the "real" star. Unfortunately, Morris only lets her Patsy Cline out in bits and pieces. She never totally gives herself over to being as much like Cline as she is capable. *A Portrait of Patsy Cline* falls too close to the *Beatlemania* end of the spectrum to be an exceptional theatrical experience.

Not that Morris doesn't have a fine voice. She captures Cline's style, from the catches, dips and sighs on "Crazy" and "Why Can't He Be You," to the rollicking

growls of "Walking After Midnight." The show includes almost every hit Cline recorded, including a great version of "Bill Bailey" and a quite moving rendition of the gospel "Closer Walk With Thee."

Morris has great stage presence and involves her audience, but her between-song patter shatters the illusion of Cline that she creates while singing. It's a little odd to witness someone perform a quite believable rendition of Patsy Cline and then talk about her in the third person. It's even more so when

Continued on page 45

Relaxed Westenhoefer Lets the Humor Rip Hanging With a Funny Friend

by Robin Sweeney

Spending an evening at a Suzanne Westenhoefer show is like having one of your funniest friends over to hang out and have a few drinks in your living room. Granted, most living rooms aren't the Great American Music Hall, but that only allowed Westenhoefer to perform for a larger audience.

And an extremely appreciative audience it was. It must be a relief for Westenhoefer, a talented comic who has had her own HBO special and has performed on *Comic Relief*, to do a show (Dec. 1) in front of a sold-out, mostly dyke house. Since the jokes didn't have to be explained, she was able to relax and really let the humor rip. It made for an excellent evening.

Westenhoefer — looking fabulous with her trademark blonde mane and wearing a green-velvet pantsuit — did a nonstop hour of queer-centric comedy. Her material ranged from several bits about her girlfriend, with whom she lives in Ohio ("Surprise! A dyke who moved for love! What a shock, right? No one here has ever done that") to political bits about the O.J. Simpson trial: "A racist thing, everyone keeps saying. A black-white thing. Right. I say let 'em. They can keep going after each other and leave the homos alone! Ha, ha! While they're not paying attention, we'll run for school board!"

She also skewers groups like the 700 Club: "Call their 800 number! Try to make their cus-



Nonstop queer-centrics from Suzanne Westenhoefer.

tomerservice people's heads explode by just talking about your life, and it costs them money!"

Family fodder

Westenhoefer takes personal information and reels off routines that are thoughtful, hilarious and occasionally bittersweet. She does entire stretches of jokes about her family, including her born-again,

Pentecostal sister:

"Hanging out with the very religious is weird. My sister sort of has religious Tourette's Syndrome. She'll be talking and occasionally this stuff just slips out. 'I saw someone you went to school with, and she's working at the bank — You're going to burn in hell!' — and she said to say hello." The bits of physical comedy

Westenhoefer included were great, particularly the ones about how she and her girlfriend divide the household jobs. Her description of mowing the lawn (usually her girlfriend's chore) and not realizing that the mower cuts grass going backward as well as forward was simply perfect.

The evening's only weak point came when Westenhoefer began doing bits based on name-dropping, though she survived even that with a very funny one about

Martina Navratilova: "She invited me to go out with her and Billy Jean. What did I say? Right. That wasn't the hard part. The hard part was calling my girlfriend and telling her I wasn't going to be home that night."

Westenhoefer emphasized coming out throughout her show. The ability to make the painful and important parts of life seem funny, too, is one of comedy's great powers. Westenhoefer's routines accomplish this, and more. ▼

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Prison

Continued from page 44

Kate Simonton as Marie has an almost Garland-esque voice that she puts to good use, especially in her sweet, if out-of-place, lullaby to the baby she conceived in a single day called "Merry Christmas, My New Love." Marilyn Fowler as the warden gets to show off in a saucy samba number called "There's Nothing About Christmas," and the always reliable Molly Goode as kooky Polly gets to show off her comic chops in "Christmas In Sheboygan."

The songs are nicely arranged by Sargent, musically staged by John Karr and choreographed by Fowler and Robert Moses. It's just too bad the vehicle for which the songs were written is so creaky. Numerous prison movie refer-

ences — most notably to *The Shawshank Redemption* — fall flat, and not once does the show hit a comic stride.

There is also a significant lack of tone to the whole proceedings. Is it silly? Is it campy? Is it shtick? If you have to keep asking, then there's something definitely not working.

Finally, there seems to be no good reason, other than for marketing reasons, that this show had to be set at Christmas. Only the songs capitalize on the seasonal motif, a fact that just makes them seem more out of place. *Women's Prison Christmas* is a silent night, boring night in the big house. ▼

Women's Christmas Prison continues at the New Conservatory Theatre through December 23. Call 621-5455 for information.

Patsy

Continued from page 44

Morris has the audience applaud to invoke the spirit of Cline — à la Tinker Bell — so that she can sing along to one of the star's recordings.

Decent but not Patsy

Unfortunately, this is also the moment that most clearly demonstrates the difference between Cline, the authentic, raw and extremely talented performer, and Morris, who is a decent performer but not Patsy Cline.

A *Portrait of Patsy Cline* started out as dinner theater and probably works better as that. Morris walks through the audience at several points and flirts with (male) members of the crowd, though this is awkward because she has to climb down from the stage. That sort of business works much better in a venue where the audience is nearer to the performer. The

crowd — mostly people who looked old enough to have enjoyed the real Patsy Cline — seemed to warm to the show anyway. They appreciated Morris's costume changes, from fringe cowgirl with white Stetson to brocade evening gown.

Morris's back-up band After Midnight is musically strong, though they seemed a little embarrassed by the show's campier elements. One of the evening's minor highlights was their rendition of "All My Exes Live in Texas." A bit thin to totally re-create the studio feel of Cline's records, the band was additionally hampered by the uneven sound at the Alcazar, which included feedback that also challenged Morris's booming voice. ▼

Joni Morris performs A Portrait of Patsy Cline at the Alcazar Theater, 650 Geary St. Call (415) 392-4400 for information.

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BAR TALK

PARTING GLANCES

Troy? Hot-N-Hunky

18th St. 11/2
You came in to pick up your order. I was sitting down waiting for mine. Smile at each other as you left and you looked back from outside, would like to meet. **7501.**

Market/Nov 10/30 Spm

You were with friends heading to Detroit. You're wearing a leather jacket, chaps. Me: Lt brown hair, blue eyes, wearing black bomber & carrying crates. Let me show you my outfit! **7502.**

Corbett Bus Stop

Near Hopkins.
Saturday, 11/11, 10:50am. You were leaning of fire hydrant with baseball cap and earphones looking at me, as I passed in my vintage Dodge wearing chrome sunglasses. Followed your bus and smiled, then melted. Must have lost you at 14th & Church. I followed *30 to Haight and you were gone! I'd like to meet you! **7503.**

Market & Dolores, Sun 11/12, 2pm

You Beached short hair, tall, thin. Me: Long red/blond hair, ripped jeans. Walked by you near the Gap, then moments later we met again recrossing Dolores. Xchanged "hi's" and you flashed a perfect smile. I looked but you kept walking. Try a longer mtng! **7504.**

Sunday 11/12 Baker/Boys Beach

We talked briefly after I got soaked by a big wave. You sitting pretty on a dry sheltered spot wearing a baseball cap and sporting a tattoo on your arm. Me: Dripping wet wearing beige shorts and leaved to too soon. Please call, I'd like to see you again. **7505.**

Me Cuts Over 23

Sun 11/7 9P BMV/SF. You smiling attractive Chinese (Mercedes). Me: Tall, Blond European (BMW). We: American, hopefully no nonsense about performance/body parts. Let's talk, swap meet. Will you honor me by calling? **7506.**

Hey Rickie!

Met briefly as volunteer waiters on Thanksgiving. You: With girl (Colleen). Me: Buzz cut, 'satche. Interested in coffee/talk? **7507.**

Double Take Near

Arco On 11/4
Time 7pm. You: Jeans, sweatshirt, jean jacket, bearded & handsome. Me: Tall, Blond European (BMW). We: American, hopefully no nonsense about performance/body parts. Let's talk, swap meet. Will you honor me by calling? **7508.**

Peninsula Family YMCA

San Mateo week of July 4. You: tall, smooth, young, uncut. Me: Shorter, hairy, older, uncut. Where have you been? I want to meet you. Please answer this ad. **7509.**

Marcus From Pleasanton

I met you Badlands July 2, 1995. We went to my friends apartment. Please answer this ad. I want to see you again. **7510.**

Osca C SFG/HNS

I really like your "shot". Maybe we could meet some thing else after hours? My U.S. ... your needs? Jonathan. **7511.**

Corner Market & 7th, Nov 11, 6pm

You cute blond guy blue sweat shirt & jeans. Me: Guy driving blue convertible with woman in pass seat. We: ad at each other many times. Lets meet. **7512.**

18th/Mission, Fri 11/17, 11am

I almost ran in to you on the corner. We smiled and then watched each other from opposite stops for the 22. You went toward 3rd St. Me: black ltr jacket w/ cuffs. Hot & bothered 4U! **7513.**

Mornings On Muni

I've only seen you from a distance, but really like what I see. You board Muni at Castro St. a little before 7:00am. You are always dressed impeccably. You're over 6' tall, black hair, nice build, nd you recently started wearing glasses. You usually carry a large briefcase. Please let me know how to meet you. **7514.**

Blonde Man On F Line Market

On Wed. Nov7. I was walking on Market St by the corner of Market St & Church St. You were on an old yellow car in the window facing downtown. It was between 9:15-9:30. We made eye contact. I was wearing black short w/ sweat shirt & yellow sport walkman. **7515.**

Sat Eve, 11/18 on 24 Line Bus

You: JFK. I look a like wearing baseball cap, waiting w/ 2 friends on way to dinner on Haight. We exchanged stolen glances while waiting for bus at Geary/O'ws. Are you interested in meeting? **7516.**

Macys Union Square (Outside)

Sunday, 11/26, approx 3pm. You: Latin, goatee, green & white checked shirt. Me: White, your height, brown hair, dk green crew neck, w/ blonde friend. I stopped. I looked. You smiled. I ran. Please call! **7517.**

Public Storage, Nov. 28, 4pm, EPA

You: Hispanic, 5'11", not tight jeans, dark shirt, Arizona 16 plate. Jeep like auto. Me: Carrying x-mas tree, frame lights, said hello. Want to meet you. I'm Asian 36yo. **7518.**

Hey Rickie!

Met briefly as volunteer waiters on Thanksgiving. You: With girl (Colleen). Me: Buzz cut, 'satche. Interested in coffee/talk? **7519.**

#8 Bus, Friday, 11/24, 7pm

You: Beige jacket. Me: Teddy bear sweatshirt, blue canvas bag. We made at great deal of eye contact but neither of us spoke. When I got off the bus you were still looking out the window at me. Would like to meet pls call. **7520.**

Club One, 11/22/95

We were working out. Talked later in the locker room. You were leaving for Colorado for the holiday. I was with a friend from Nebraska. Enjoyed our time & conversation. Would like to talk more. **7521.**

24Hour Nautilus

2nd Floor, Monday, 11/20. You were watching 49ers post game show. You: young, very cute, dark hair. Me: Short, light brown hair, tank top, black funny pack. Let's meet! **7522.**

Flight 2140

11/21 United Shuttle Flight 2140, Burbank to SFO. You're tall, s/p bearded, hunk. I'm bearded too and wore black leather. We both live in SF. Call. **7523.**

Nov Valley Asian

With "CBS Evening News" shoulder bag, 24th St. between Castro and Noe, 11/17, 8:50am. Strawberry blonde hunk parking car would like to meet you. **7524.**

Earthstone Sun 11/18

You: Reddish brown hair and beard, shy, attractive, w/ two older women. Me: Silver haired, stocky guy in gym shorts, distinguished looking. We kept staring at each other. Please call. **7525.**

Daddy's Bar, Nov 22 9pm

You: muscular man in white t-shirt w/ 3 friends near windows in front of bar. Me: Preppy man-squeak-clean, white dress shirt, glasses. We looked at each other a lot. Now let's talk. **7526.**

Hole In The Wall 11/22, 11-Tam

You: Tall, handsome, w/ short hair and charming eyes, wearing blk. ttr cycle jacket, t-shirt, and trousers. Me: In blk. ttr and Harley-Davidson t-shirt. We shared a couple of glances but I was too shy to say hello. Would very much like to correct this mistake. **7527.**

Stud 11/22

You: blond. Tall your black friend you were military. Me: blond, blue cap, in front of you in line. Wish I'd said hello. You were really hot. **7528.**

California Bus Stop

Wednesday, Nov 22, 10:00am. You seemed to be running late as I saw you run to catch the bus. We both kept looking at each other as I crossed the street. I wish I had had more time to act. Let's try again! **7529.**

Welshman

We met at Folsom video arcade, 11/21. You're hot and talented. Let's do it again! **7530.**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP M-M

Seeking A Muscular Black Male

I'm a muscular GWM, 38, honest, sincere, who enjoys music, good food, romantic times. I would like to meet a smooth, muscular black guy to share quality time with. Pls be sincere, no flakes. **7531.**

GWM Smoke Free Drug Free HIV-

Br/bl 19yr resident, stable, seeking relaxed conversations with a mind of possibilities from light hearted laughter to LTR. Agendables and simplicity, desirable. 30-45yo. Most magical. **7532.**

Hot Latino Bottom

Handsome, 27yo Mexican bottom looking for hot masculine Latino/black tops, 21-40, for great fun. I love to suck and get fucked. **7533.**

Attract Black Seek Masculine GWM

Attract, GWM, HV-, 40's, 5'10", 165#, nice body, nice cock, seek GWM/48-60yo w/ a big thick dick that loves it suck for hours. You will not be disappointed. **7534.**

Asian Boy-Man

Gd/king, cute, active, hip, fit, 5'8", 140#, 20something, short hair, body piercing, easily amused. Apprecates honesty, creativity, kitsch, leisure time & beauty. Has too many interests to list. You're 20/30something, elegant, clever, confident & certainly doable. My taste in men is like my taste in art: universal & eclectic. Call to find out if there is mutual attraction & compatibility. The indolent & pyleess need not respond. Talk to you soon! **7535.**

Foreakin

You: Looking for others into extending, lengthening their foreskin. **7536.**

Mature Dad Seeks Son

For ongoing intimate times both in and out of bed. I'm attr, 72, 5'8", 160 and you are gd/king, under 45, submissive, sexual, hot, romantic like I am and attracted to a more mature man. **7537.**

GWM Seeks GLM

35, 5'11", 185#, NS, ND, HV+. Mostly top seeks mostly bottom playmate for fun and games (in and out of bed) emotionally available man for intimacy and connection, or any combination. **7538.**

Sexy Young Tops

Young studs any race to teach the pleasure of being a bottom to a sexy 30's blond with great butt. Dick size doesn't matter, imagination, patience and desire does. Can you make this very tight ass beg for more? I'm very oral. **7539.**

Young Latino/Black Guys

Want to have sex, get serviced regularly by 35yo, gd/king blond. Maybe you and a friend just want to get off, watch videos, explore fantasies. Love cute butts, have one myself, check me out! **7540.**

Need A New Boyfriend?

WMM, 62(looks 30s) 5'11", 155#, clean shaven, HV-, ND, HV+, looking for AM, 25-35, short, slim, for long term monogamous relationship. Like 60's-80's music, theater, dining, travel, scuba, photography, movies, dancing, cats. Affectionate, loyal, marriage-minded. Outstanding opportunity for the right person. **7541.**

GBM Seeking GWM

35, 6'1", 165#, ND, NS, handsome, swimmer's build, great smile, seeking mature, honest, professional, maybe slightly left of centered mate. Bond w/ hopeless romantic: btwn 35-45, sense of humor a+. What I'm looking for has 4 syllables not 21 **7542.**

Fun-Loving Guy Seeks You

This muscular 29yr, 6', BM, gd/king with msc legs, smooth chest, firm butt wants to meet you. I'm in great shape, love aerobics, working out, quiet times, movies cooking. You: 25-40 in good shape, no gut, top, serious romantic & passionate kisser. **7543.**

Hairy Stud

Like to service confident, hot top? Me: Handsome, 33, 6'9", 148#, goatee, hairy built chest, total top. You: Under 35, attractive, total bottom, eager to please, GWM, ISO possible romance, good sex, a buddy, affection, fun, passionate kisses. I'm HIV+, you too? **7544.**

HIV+ Athlete's Social For Singles

Wanna meet hot, healthy, HIV+, gym boys that are single? We do exist if you wish to meet, date, romance, or just play without fear, call to find out about this social. **7545.**

Ball Workshop

My two huge balls are waiting for your hot mouth and tongue. Me: Attract, GWM, 45, 6'5", 250#, football players build. You: Attract, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth to moderate body hair. Make me squirm!! **7546.**

Hot Latino Bottom

Handsome, 27yo Mexican bottom looking for hot masculine Latino/black tops, 21-40, for great fun. I love to suck and get fucked. **7547.**

Hot Top Wanted

Hot, masculine GWM, bottom, 5'6", 170#, muscular, pounds bubble butt, low body fat, 50yo, clean shaven, passionate, romantic, fun, active, many interests, seeks GWM fuck buddy, 30-45, similar attributes. NS, ND, HV-. Not into gay scene. **7548.**

Latino Professional

Wanted For LTR by GBM
Handsome professional GBM, 43, 6'0", 170#, in good shape, HIV-, new to SF, seeks similar Latino male age 33-45 for dating and possible LTR. Give me a call. **7549.**

Wolf On A Foxhunt! Where's The Bay Next Door

When you need him? I'm 38, 6'0", 205#, br/hz, mod hairy, satche/goatee, professional, educ, msc, top, ISO the Almer. Boy U R 21-37(or look it) Wh/His (Ius Eurasian) employed, educated, or teachable. Fory (lymbos & jocks) HIV+, healthy, GB ass. **7550.**

GAM, 38, 5'7", 130#

I'm very cute & young looking, neat, considerate, I like music (classical best), good food, the beach. Quiet time. You're under 40, any race, cute, ND, NS, clean shaven. We're both affectionate, honest, in shape, and kind. **7551.**

I'm All Yours

Me GWM, 57', br/bn, hairy, 190#, Italian, mid 40s, looking for GWM, GWM for fun cuddling, sex and poss. LTR. You 30-40, well built, well endowed, cut. Call me lets meet. **7552.**

Versatile Dad Seeks Mate

Dad type, 46, seeks versatile top companion, 18 to 7. I'm 5'10", 165#, and HIV- & affectionate. **7553.**

Seek A Husky, Muscular, Or Stocky Male

Black male, 51, 5'9", 170#, seeks husky, well hung, HIV-, virile, horny white men 48-64 with hair or no hair for oral and safe GEEK action. You a top. Me: Bottom. **7554.**

Hoping To Meet A Smooth Asian

I'm 38, GWM, works out regularly. Seeking reliable, honest GWM, who has athletic, smooth hairless body. Please be sincere. Only serious replies. **7555.**

Looking For Love

Gd/king GWM, 38, HIV+, with short dark hair, mustache, blue eyes and smooth body, seeks other gd/king men who are HIV+ for friendship and maybe more. Good looking man between 28-38 will get a response NS, ND. **7556.**

Young/HV-/Grieving

Have you lost a partner? Do you miss the companionship? Although its too early to commit, having the right-sexual partner can really help w/ the healing process. I am 29yo, 6', tall, br/bn, eyed stud, 175#, 44c, 31w, 16a. Very attractive, & masculine. I am looking for the spark or we can talk about our lost together. **7557.**

Thai Tutor Wanted

Regular visitor to Thailand needs to learn simple Thai. Will exchange for help with English. **7558.**

Fun Romantic

Still seeks same. I'm a bottom, 6', 180#, HIV+, blonde, vry attractive, hazel eyes, goatee. A fine arts painter. I love romance, music, arts, comedy. I've got a great smile, hairy body, butch demeanor and like same. I'm 35yo. **7559.**

Latino Seeking Asian/Latino

Professional GBM, 32, seeking a friendship, dating or possible relationship. I enjoy foreign films, dinner & aviation. **7560.**

All Races Welcome

To answer this ad by a friendly cunn 46yo, average ht & wt, HIV-, intelligent and sensitive. **7561.**

Orlando Tights

GWM, professional in Florida has sensual fetish for the feet/look of mylon/vera. Not into drag. Loves bay area & seeks friends, bicycling, ballet & kitties. **7562.**

Want You To Save Me

6', 165#, 39yo, GBM, HIV-, seeks LTR oriented HV-, guy who knows what he wants and how to get it, for LTR. You are 30-45yo, enjoys quiet evenings next to a fire, long kisses, holding hands, honesty, intimacy and traveling to far away places. **7563.**

Hopelss Romantic Seeks Same

We: Zanny, creative, educated, healthy. You: probably younger, G/A/W/M like the scene as well as home time. Live is SF, be a top. Me: bottom GWM, early 50's, 5'10", 210#, of non-attitude. **7564.**

Best Foot Forward

GWM hoping to meet life partner, self-awareness, compassion, and good communication essential, terrific looks nice but not necessary. Me: 5'9", 40, 165#, attractive, good shape. Foot play a must. **7565.**

Non-Dainty Creamer

Versatile but primarily top guy. I'm 42, strong/chubby, white, 5'6", 150#, gd/king, hairy, healthy & horny. Sex first, possible LTR/friendship later. Be Asian, over 30, slightly overweight. **7566.**

No Games!

If you are a successful, healthy, professional or business man and would like to spoil an attractive young looking European male in his 20's, please leave a message. **7567.**

Asian Seeks GWM For LTR

Me: GAM, mid 30s, 5'9", 142#, honest, caring sincere, Enjoy life. You: GWM, 40's & up. Reliable, honest, not sincere. Enjoy life. You: GWM, 40's & up. Reliable, honest, not afraid to commit. HIV-, height & weight proportionate. No flake. Love romance on regular basis. No drug/ No smoke. **7568.**

Looking For Romance (Lover)

Romantic, gd/ing, HIV-, GAM(Fil), late 30's like quiet times, hugging, kissing and sense of humor, movies and out doors. I'm 5'9", 170#, w/ mtsche. You're a GWM, 35-45, mtsche, goatee, romantic, HIV-, sense of humor, like cuddle, kissing, quiet times, for a long time. friendship, relationship. **7569.**

Looking For Earthbound Man

Affectionate GWM, 36yo, 5'6", hirsute, healthy, HIV+, cubby wants down to earth, honest, stable, romantic top (25-40) for LTR. If you're a good kisser then you're halfway home. **7570.**

I'm Tired Of Videos

I want to be up close and watch 2 guys get it on. Let's party and have some hot live sex. I'm in shape, 30yo. **7571.**

Serious Cute College Student

Handsome, strong, 34yo, WMM, br/bn, 6', 165#, not into bars. I'm straight active into educated creative responsible professional down-to-earth, honest, horny, hairy, new in town. You are also WMM, fit, 30ish, non-flake, see above. **7572.**

Single Cute College Student

Black-Filipino, 24, 5'6", 155#, seeks guys but 24-34yo. White, Italian, Latino, Black, Foreign guys for friendship/pos LTR who's very good looking/cute who enjoys beach walks, conversation, travel, dinners, etc. Serious resp only! No 1 night stands, flakes, phoneys or games! **7573.**

Love GAM In SF

Who will be a top to me. We are educated, healthy, professional, but like fun, bar and restaurant scene, weekend sex/nice. Looking for LTR. Me: GWM, early 50's, 5'10", 210lbs. Call! **7574.**

Cute?

GWM, 27, Handsome, strong 7, silent, fit, educated, conscientious, main stream, enjoys younger, cute, boy next door characters. **7575.**

Divisadero Carwash 11/4

You: Gray hair and beard, ears pierced. Wear purple sweater and jeans. Me:AM who smiled at you. We cruised each other. Would like to see you again. Get in touch w/ mel **7538.**

Asian Romantic

Sought by mature Italian Male for companionship/romantic interludes. Enjoy stimulating conversation, travelling with tentative plans to visit Italy/France in spring of 1996. Amenable to other activities. **7540.**

Calling All Mormons

A typical mormon, recently relocated from beautiful Utah. Looking for 18-29yo, like a mormon men for friendship and possible LTR. **7541.**

Let's Connect

Attractive guy, 38, 6'1", 185#, HIV+, masculine, healthy, workout, varied interests. Looking to meet attractive, energetic, compatible male for romance/buddy. **7542.**

Tired Of Being Alone!

GH/WMM br/bl, 5'10", slim (18yo) ISO discreet Asian male 18-30 to date. Hope to hear from you, you won't be sorry! No mental or overweight lovers! **7543.**

Winter Warm Up

Portuguese WMM student, non-mainstream, seeks AM 20-26 for friendship, maybe more. Honesty, sincerity, personality, more important than looks or financial status to me. NS, ND, no attitude please! Let's warm each other up this winter! **7551.**

Sing Tall, Slender Guy

(long hair would be great) date now, commit later. I'm sincere, outgoing GWM, spiritual seeker/teacher, former actor. 6'2", tall, 200#, mid 40s, b/eyes, trim beard, balding w/ pony-tail. Long for slightly younger, articulate, affectionate guy with humor & H preferred. Respect of twelve-steps, NS, no harassment. Me: performed in musicals, spiritual path. **7571.**

Submissive Seeks LTR In SF

BAR TALK

Hairy Teddy Bear Type
ISO similar. Me: WM, 5'10", 175, 38, stache, HIV-, handsome, fun guy, I get hot for other furry guys. Let's connect for cuddle, kick, winter hibernating. Sincere reply, please. **7752.**

Check This Out!
30yo, GLM 5'11", 165, healthy, HIV-, interested meeting others like myself who's not into SF gay scene. I am easy, go, fun, trustworthy and a faithful companion. SF only, no terms, serious reply only. **7753.**

Bear Wit
Ancient white bear (well I am 43), tall and hairy, intellectual and affectionate seeks very bright chap (28-40) to shower me with kisses, hold my hand a night, and share a dialectic on life. **7754.**

Friends in Nevada Reno/Sparks/C.C.
GWM, 34, 5'10", 170, c/n shv, cute, safe HIV-, recently relocated to Carson City/Reno area want to meet any type of friends/lover for winter hibernation & frolic. I have 4x4 and your mustache a plus. **7755.**

1948
Anyone out there also was born in 1948? I'm a foreign born GMM, look ten years younger than my own age, very attractive, very smart, very artistic & a beautiful body, so are you or younger, any race. **7756.**

Boysish in Boxers
GMM, 20's, 5'6", gym-toned, buzz cut, real cute, sometimes unconventional, into alternative music, eclectic taste, seeks GMM, 5'10", or less w/ athletic build, under 35, I'm looking for something real. **7758.**

German Tannenbaum For Xmas
Wonderful, GMM, 40, professional, 6'1", 175, HIV-, LA based German speaking/traveled, into the Arts film etc. seeks handsome German Austrian age 30's early 40's w/ similar interests for friendship & possible relationship. **7766.**

Middle Eastern Sought
Nice Persian or other ME men 30's early 5 sought by handsome, discreet, hairy GMM, 40, 6'1", 175, HIV-LA based. I am professional, into the Arts, film and enjoy Middle-Eastern culture. Lets be friends. **7767.**

SEEKING ADVENTURE M-M

Thin Muscle Fuck Guys
My most intense and wanted sex fantasy involves thin, muscle dick/fuck/flex/tit play. I want to explore sexual limits with thin hard body guys: tops and bottoms welcomed. You must enjoy fucking, defined biceps, veiny arms, and/or defined abs major turn on. **7752.**

48yo Teddy Bear Daddy
Would like to meet 30-50yo TOP. Want to be taught bottom techniques from the basics onward. Need to learn to hold gag reflex. Big dicks, big balls, and uncult a plus. **7757.**

Chunky Tall Financial Dist. Type Wanted
Handsome, discreet, 29yo, GWM looking for tall (over 6'1"), chunky, HIV-, top over 35yo. (A lot over is fine). Balding? OK. Married? OK, just be big & in charge. **7756.**

Married - Needs Service
WM, 38yo, gdlks needs good oral service from older men on regular basis. I just kick back while you service me. Must be discreet! **7753.**

Your Hot Butt
My long tongue & bushy mustache a wild ride you'll never forget. Me: Hot GMM, 37yo, 6', 160#, brn/blu. **7755.**

6'4"-6'10"
I love to service in-shape, masculine, stashed, hairy, men any age. I lean, hairy daddy, masculine. Nuts licked, pecs lapped, expert deep throater. Tall men call now & kick-back for expert service. **7753.**

JO Men
Hairy mouth looking for in-shape or built JO men with large hairy balls or huge smooth balls that really dig having their nuts licked real good while they jack loads out. Be bitch, stashed, hairy preferred. Expert heard available. **7754.**

Short Bodybuilders
Tall lean hairy 40's man ISO short very built, hairy or naturally smooth, not shaved, very hairy stashed built bodybuilders who dig expert oral service. Pecs, balls, cock. Smaller dick size not a problem if super built. **7755.**

Jackstrap Wrestling
Muscular, handsome man seeks others turned on by erotic wrestling. Open to all fantasies and skill levels. No heavy rough housing - just good, clean, sweaty fun. Go ahead and call, you won't be disappointed. **7756.**

Good Topman Needed
I am a gdlng, Eby professional, WM, clean shaven, 6'1", 185, dark hair & eyes, with muscular arms, chest, and legs, intense, sensual, and affectionate. Let's talk. **7758.**

Smooth Bottoms Wanted
BM, 6'1", 180#, 9", cut, clean shaven, muscular, masculine, seeking smooth, Latinos, Cubans, WM, for sex, 18-30yo. Smooth butt a plus. **7751.**

Hot, Handsome, Hung, Top
40's, 6', 165#, healthy, HIV+, top. Established, affectionate, romantic, at home kind of guy, strong mass, in-shape, biceps, hairy beard, uncult, but not regd. Let's fuck! **7759.**

Need A Fuck Buddy
Ebay WM, 6', 160#, HIV-, get-together to get off when horny. Like suck, fuck, JO, pom, used shorts & rubbers. I'm versatile, but more bottom. Nasty sessions. **7757.**

Let's Get Wet
I like water-wet clothes, want to play with others who do too. I'm 38, well-built, good looking, HIV-. **7758.**

Attention To Endowed Black Dad
Masc. mature, sincere, deepthroat expert would love to get together & regularly satisfy you but cannot contact w/ you as I have a 900 block on my phone. Looking forward to hearing from you. Call me. **7754.**

Bad Boys Need Rough Butt Spankings
With hand, paddle & strap. Over your knee or the bed. I'm 38, muscular and gym toned. HIV-. Like larger & older Dads who can swing a belt. **7754.**

GMM-Cucksucker Wanted
Me: 39yo, married WM, I want to kick back and have you give me oral worship, if you give good, discreet service. Call me now. **7752.**

Something Different
Kick back and let my lips, tongue and fingers caress your body. Let me find the spot that sends you to a screaming climax. Must be drug free and HIV-. Prefer smooth to lightly hairy. Days of Eves. Why wait, call now! **7759.**

Hefty, Big Men
GMM, 42, 5'11", 230#, attractive, searching for large, big fat and hefty men for romantic, sexual encounters. **7751.**

Berkeley Cock Sucker
Blowjobs for in shape white or Hispanic men. 18-60, cut or uncult by masc. attractive, white 35yo in shape male. **7758.**

Attractive & Versatile
36 and well hung, HIV+. You must also be versatile. I get off on guys hung smaller than me. Like to switch? Please call. **7752.**

Handsome, Husky, GW Bear Cub in Ebay
Bearded, 5'9", 230#, 42, HIV-, brown hair & eyes seeks dominant, "take-charge", older Daddy type to use me for your pleasure, looks, race, size unimportant. Cub enjoys barebutt spankings with Dad's belt, heavy VA, GK/P, FR/A. Some BD, CBT. Have a lover already. Daytime meetings possible in Nov/Dec. **7753.**

Castro Sex After Midnight?
Hot attractive Italian stud 42, 6', 180, 8 p, bd/mst, looking to meet up with hot & big studs who wanna get off in the end. **7725.**

Looking For Hot Uncult Uncles
GMM, 35, 6', 180#, 8" x thick looking for hot uncult uncles who will let me come visit you in S.F., drink beer, watch porn, show off and give you head. Leave your #. **7726.**

Tall, Black Master Wanted by Tall White Slaveboy
I'm 32yo, 6'2", cute, in shape, submissive and dreaming of something I've never had, a tall 25-38yo dominant, hung black gorgeous man to force feed me his dick and cum (I swallow) slap me, whip me, fuck me, piss on me, etc. Anytime, anywhere you want. I'm your boy, Sir! **7728.**

Have It His Way
Surrender control to this handsome Asian/Hawaiian hunk, 34, w/ smooth, chiseled muscular build, he loves to pump your face and butt. You might want him to be you and make you cum helplessly. You should be gdlng, trim/muscular, playful. Ready to seduce this hunk with your hot ass? **7729.**

Insatiable Btm
Has openings for dom, men who need relief ask for Roger. **7725.**

Want Nuts?
My thick nipples protrude through work short. Need muscle blue collar 36, 5'11", 180#, BD BB or bottom. Bitchin' tits on handsome guy. **7730.**

Front Row Seat Wanted:
I really get off watching my young friend getting his huge dick serviced deep throats only who like an audience should call. Just a good clean time. No flakes or hustlers pls. **7731.**

Hot Wet Man Pussy
ISO hung, deep black or Hispanic dick for hot, deep, sloppy wet action. No games, no bullshit. Not into scene. Discretion assured. **7739.**

Handsome Masculine Latino Cock Sucker
Gdlng, sexy, butch, defined, 5'8", 160#, seeks gdlng, masc, muscled construction workers, policemen, firemen who want to fuck my face, give instructions how to suck your cock to your satisfaction. Let a hot stud service and worship your cock and body. Very discreet. Caliente! **7765.**

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A Few Good Men
Needling total worshipping and expert oral service from hot submissive sex slave. Handsome, good body, great mouth. Right attitude and slutty. **7756.**

Rectal Exam
Bend over and show that hole! Hairy, balding, bear doctor gives safe, glond, slippery rectal exams. Your prostate will be massaged and balls tugged. JO for the doctor while on all fours. Squirm with delight, experience wild, exquisite orgasms, submissive and uncult encouraged to reply. Also, married fellow who require expert ass attention. Latinos and Asians are a plus. Exams provided to almost all. **7751.**

Like To Be Bullied?
Ever been departed and made to run around in your briefs in semi-public? Ever have you clothes forcible taken? Ever been tied up as an adolescent and sexually used? GMM, 30's looking for a young, 18-30yo. Tell me how you were bullied as a teen and we can start where you left off. **7722.**

Complete oral attention all for you.
Uncult Asian or Latin. Tall, attractive, discreet, GMM, knows how to please. **7749.**

51yo, GWM
6'0", brn/bm, seeks younger whited bottoms under 40 smooth bodied who want to be fucked by big 5", cock, prefer guy with smooth bodies. **7750.**

Winter Party
Join our private underwear party. You must be in great shape, hot & under 35 years old. All guests are preselected. All races are welcome. The next party is Dec 9th. Call for an interview. **7724.**

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GW Bottom Wanted
Just need on GW bottom (25-45) to meet on a regular bases for passionate & intense fun. Safe sex only. I am HIV-37 with a 7 1/2" top waiting for you if interested & serious call me. **7745.**

Do You Like Getting Fucked Up
So you can't get a hard on? Then get greased up & take real dirty & get a roaring boner. Intense JO, dirty talk, cock worshipping, late evening my place Ebay, no shaved cocks, no toys, no videos. **7746.**

I'm Probably Twice Your Age!
I'm eager, expert, submissive, a retired university academic available to a dominant man, straight, bisexual or gay, 100% top who wants all out service his way without hassle or reciprocation. Ebay. **7747.**

Lake Merritt Area Only
BM, 38, 5'5", 140#, seeking BB who enjoys getting fucked. Age 25-40, race unimportant. Max a plus. **7748.**

Deep Throat
Complete oral attention all for you. Uncult Asian or Latin. Tall, attractive, discreet, GMM, knows how to please. **7749.**

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Fascinated By Sex
Me too. But we both have other passions that go beyond and add to the pleasure of two bodies in an explosive clench. My other passions: Playful conversations, organic meals (let's feed each other), Seductive music. 25yo, GMM, 5'7", 130#. Call me for an adventure if you are a handsome GMM 23-35yo. **7732.**

Fat Boys
Looking for fat boys 300# and over to sit on my face and have some serious fun. **7733.**

GWM Seeks GMM, GLM & GMM
Masc. 6', 144#, slim-build, great shape, 43, b/b, goatee, and HIV- seeking masc. attractive, 18-40, slim to average, smooth to moderate body hair, and HIV- for hot manly safe sex & sensual massage. No terms & drugs please. Non-smoker preferably. **7736.**

No Hassle Blowjob
To masculine blacks, muscular Asians and super hairy by frequent SF visitor, white, 38, good body. Your place, HIV-only. **7737.**

F*ck Master
If you're a thin muscle guy w/ defined biceps, veiny arms, and/or washboard abdominals, I'll plow your butt and take charge, all hole fantasies will be fulfilled. I'm 5'11", 185#, 35yo, caucasian, muscular, very sexy chest, dark hair, dark eyes, dark mind, HIV-. **7759.**

Houseboy-Sex Toy Sought
Enjoy serving a man & walking around naked? Handsome Sir (42, tall, trim, HIV-) seeks muscular bottom for personal servant. Sub/dominant. Bondage. Domestic duties. Prefer: Handsome, muscular, serious. NS/ND. **7760.**

Nice Guy Loves Barefoot
I have enjoyed lifelong excitement looking at and fantasizing about men's barefeet. I'm very aroused sexually and safe sexually by kissing, licking, smelling, and caressing barefeet in reciprocal action. JO. Gdlng, 5'11", 160#, HIV+, tan, bearded, HIV-, NA, ND. **7753.**

Humiliating Spanking
Sir! I need to be bent over doggy style, spanked roughly, ordered to hold open my cheeks, and then poked with my dildo. Maybe your buddy wants to watch? I'm a cute dark-haired chubby guy, 38, 5'9", 210#. Open to similar fantasies also. **7753.**

Dog Leashed Foot Crawler
Hirsute, HIV-, older, attractive, clean-cut, Ebay man needs needs to worship, grovel, kiss your feet & be your foot slave & cock eater. Nice, only hot footed tops only, very seriously seeking this. **7752.**

FF Submissive
W/ bondage slng, ISO strong arm top master. You are in total control. N/B. All night party. Top couples welcome. In shape. 58, 5'11", 160#. HIV+, tats, bearded, hot oral service, deep, wide, pig hole. You: Any stats. **7728.**

Like Your Butt Sucked?
Very hot ass eater seeks very verbal hairy assed fascitators into butt feeding on my rimmet. I'm gdlng, 38, 6'2", 165#, wapo, buzzcut with big toilet seat cheeks. You: Facial hair 30+, hot me top heavy into rim jugs. Clean or not. Tops only. **7729.**

Bare Assed Spanking
Big daddy bear likes to make his boys sweat, howl, writhe, cry and shoot. Expert spanker for boys 18-35. There is truth in pain and salvation in discipline. **7753.**

In Need Of Male BS Or Over
Straight older WM seeks to fulfill fantasy where you grab my head fast/slow fuck my face bang your balls against my chin then stand back JO & shoot your hot load on my face rubbing it in with your cock. **7741.**

Tease Tease Tease
Extremely ticklish GMM seeks other extremely ticklish GMM 22-30yo to share the joy and laughter of life. **7742.**

Hung Uncult Nuts
Serious PUA artist of erotica w/ limited mobility needs tattooed, pierced, hung, uncult, nude models. Serious only no \$ made. Have 30+ years of experience and an expert in servicing huge, thick nipples. 1" or longer, the thicker the bigger the better! Please, only replies. **7745.**

Do You Have Huge Luscious Nipples?
Looking for a muscular guy who knows how to treat them? I'm 38, muscular and an expert in servicing huge, thick nipples. 1" or longer, the thicker the bigger the better! Please, only replies. **77**

THIS WEEK

Wanna Submit?

Send calendar listings to:

This Week
Bay Area Reporter
395 9th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Thursday before issue date.

Friday 8

Are You Happy?

Marcia Wilkie's comedic monologues search to answer above question. Fri.-Sun. \$12. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Stacy Collins

Screamin' acoustic rock & folk punk. 8pm. Owl & Monkey, 1336 9th Ave.

Dance Makers

Kulintang Arts presents choreographers Jesselito Bie, Anna Sun Foo, Enrico Labayen, Sharon Sato, Pearl Ubungen. Thru Sun. \$12.50. 8pm. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 626-1781.

The Desk Set

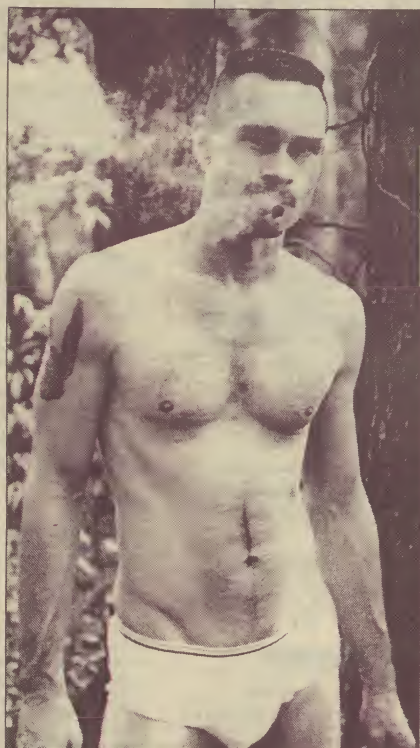
All-male version of William Marchant's 1955 play examines the corporate closet, directed by Danny Scheie. Wed.-Sat. thru 12/16, tonight at 8pm. \$12-18. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Get the Word Out

Queer women's performance and conversation with Miriam Kronberg, Rebecca Levi, Camille Roy, others. \$5. 8pm. Small Press Distribution, 1814 San Pablo, Berkeley. (510) 549-3336.

The Happy Gland Revue

Films and videos by Charles Gatewood, George Kuchar, Greta Snider, more. \$5. 8:30pm. ATA, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.



Monday

Mr. Mike, one of the models for Greg Day's erotic photographs, **ManDreams**, at Castro Station.

It's Not Inevitable

"Challenging HIV negative men's beliefs that they will become infected," panel discussion by Invention. 7pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 522-1785.

Joan for the Holidays?

Nat'l Lesbian and Gay Journalists Assn./N.Cal. presents Joan Jett Blakk putting media guests on the spot in live game show. 7pm. Eichelberger's, 2742 17th St.

The Joy of Gay Sex

John Fisher's debut musical comedy in a return engagement. Thurs. & Fri. thru 12/29. \$17-20. 8pm. Bayfront Theater, Fort Mason. 436-0806.

Metamorph Dance

Works choreographed by Elisabeth Crawford, featuring "Web." Thru Sat. \$10. 8pm. Dancers' Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

Mona Rogers in Person

Helen Shumaker as Mona, extended run Thurs.-Sun. thru 12/31. \$16-18. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

The Normal Heart

Larry Kramer's drama about the AIDS crisis. Fri. & Sat. thru 12/9. \$10. Performing Arts Center, Contra Costa College, San Pablo. 236-3323.

Nude Coffee

All-female comedy troupe. Fri. at 8pm, Sat at 11pm. thru 12/16. \$12. Exit Theater, 156 Eddy. (510) 549-0624.

Orestes

Charles L. Mee Jr.'s adaptation of Euripides' tragedy, directed by Kenn Watt. Wed.-Sat. thru 12/9. 8pm. Nourse Auditorium, 275 Hayes. 243-9895.

A Portrait of Patsy Cline

Country-western musical tribute starring Joni Morris. Thurs.-Sun. thru 12/30. 8pm. Alcazar Theatre, 650 Geary. 392-4400.

Puttin' on the Titz

Veronica Klaus and her Heart and Soul Band. \$10. 9pm door, 10:30pm show. King St. Garage, 174 King. 974-6020.

Scott Silverman, Andrea Leigh

Stand-up comedy. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Sizzle

Performance, dance and spoken word by Veronica Combs, Stephanie Everett, Elissa Perry, more. Fri. & Sat. \$8-12. 8pm. Luna Sea Women's Perf. Project, 2940 16th St. #216C. 863-2989.

The Trouble With Angels

The Sick and Twisted Players production of the '66 movie. Thurs.-Sat. thru 12/23. \$10-12. 8:30pm. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Tennessee Williams One-Acts

27 Wagons Full of Cotton & Talk To Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen. Thurs.-Sat. thru 12/16 at 8pm. \$12. Braval Studio Theatre, 2180 Bryant. 337-4390.

Women's Prison Christmas

Artfull Circle Theatre presents a new musical comedy set in a women's prison on Xmas Eve, thru 12/23, call for times. \$15. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Saturday 9

Big Deal

Art sale and raffle benefits Visual Aid/Artists for AIDS Relief. \$10. 5pm. Space 743, 743 Harrison. 777-8242.

Christmas Concert

MCC choirs and chamber orchestra present Saint-Saens' *Christmas Oratorio*, more, free. 8pm. MCC/SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

Gay Comedy Night

Scott Silverman, Maureen Brownsey, Danny Williams. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Girth & Mirth Club

Holiday party for chubby gay men and their admirers. 8pm. Call for info. 824-0260.

It's A (Plow) Girl!

Unveiling of new mechanical inhabitant of Omnicircus, video screening, music by Deus Ex Machina. \$5. 8pm. Theatre Concrete, 550 Natoma. 621-4068.

Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming

Golden Gate Men's Chorus and Slavyanka, Slavic men's chorus, in concert. \$12-15. 8pm. Trinity Episcopal Church, 1668 Bush. 771-9731.

Medea, the Musical

John Fisher's hybrid of Euripides and Busby Berkeley, performed by SassyMouth. Sat. thru 12/30. \$17-20. 2:00pm. Bayfront Theater, Fort Mason. 436-0806.

Eileen Myles

Reading from *Maxfield Parrish: Poems*, free. 3:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Friday

Choreographer Jesselito Bie performs "Siamese Dreams," part of **Dance Makers** at New Performance Gallery.

Nutcracker

Oakland Ballet accompanied by Oakland East Bay Symphony. Thru 12/24, call for times. \$5-35. Tonight at 7pm. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 762-2277.

Pumping Copy

Monologist Josh Kornbluth reveals the inner life of a lowly copy editor. Thru 12/31, call for times. \$10-15. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

Winter Heat at the Lounge

Club Ecstasy, guest hostess Fairy Butch, DJ Jagqueen, safer sex sluts. \$10. 9pm. Call for info. 985-5252.

Sunday 10

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans

GLS Holiday Party, bring food

to share. Park Hill Condo Rec Rm, 355 Buena Vista. 285-3202.

Essex Hemphill Mem'l Reading

Jewelle Gomez, Brian Freeman, April Sinclair and others read, free. 4pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Light Interpretations

125 artists, designers and architects create Hanukkah menorahs. \$3. Sun.-Thurs. thru 12/25. Jewish Museum, 121 Stuart. 543-8880.

Mazacote

Live salsa party. \$5 cover. 4pm. Bahia Cabana, 1600 Market. 861-4202.

Priest

Collaboration between Stephen Hendee and Peter Cole. Fri.-Sun. 12-6pm thru 12/17. Push, 532 Natoma. 487-1669.



Photo: Ram Studios

Friday

Veronica Klaus and her Heart and Soul Band perform in **Puttin' on the Titz** at the King Street Garage.



Sister M
Dragline a
Hamburger
Folsom. 62

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Niqé Bla
Self-portrait
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864-7654.

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861-7933.

Girls' M

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3:50, 7:30
2036 Univ
(510) 843

ManDre

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Station, 45

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Weslia
Paula V

Song styl
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Municipal
for prices
York Hote
824-5452

K

Sister Kitty
Dragtime at Mary's. 9pm.
Hamburger Mary's. 1582
Folsom. 626-1985.

Monday 11

Niqé Black
Self-portraits in photography
exploring womanhood, sexu-
ality and the darker side, thru
Dec. Mad Magda's Russian
Tea Room. 579 Hayes.
864-7654.

**Gay Comedy
Open Mike**
Aspiring queer comics sign
up by phone, MC Scott
Capurro. \$5. 8pm. Josie's
Cabaret, 3583 16th St.
861-7933.

Girls' Night Out
"The Incredibly True
Adventure of Two Girls in
Love," dir. Maria Maggenti.
3:50, 7:30pm. UC Theatre,
2036 University, Berkeley.
(510) 843-6267.

ManDreams
Erotic photographs by Greg
Day, from vintage 70s to
Powerplay coversmen, recep-
tion 7pm. Thru Dec. Castro
Station, 456 Castro.

**Pamela Z, ROVA
Saxophone Quartet**
Join the San Francisco
Contemporary Music Players,
music by Louis Andriessen,
Arthur Javinen, more. \$10-
14. 8pm. Theater at Center
for the Arts, Yerba Buena
Gardens. 252-6235.

**Weslia Whitfield,
Paula West**
Song stylists in a benefit con-
cert for Kay Tsenin for
Municipal Court Judge. Call
for prices. 7pm. Plush Room,
York Hotel, 940 Sutter.
824-5453.

Tuesday 12

Lexine Alpert
Photographs of the predomi-
nantly Hispanic East Bay
community of Fruitvale. Thru
12/22. Downstairs Gallery,
UC Extension, 55 Laguna.
252-5221.

**Artists and
the Nude**
Group show incl. Sabato
Fiorello, Simone Gad, Luc
Janssens. Afternoons or by
appt., thru 1/12. Naked Art
Gallery, 355 Bryant, Loft 110.
284-0567.

**Conservatory
at Old First**
SF Conservatory of Music
brass, woodwinds and per-
cussion in concert incl.
Rouse, "Ku-Ka-Ilumoku." \$9.
Old First Church, 1751
Sacramento. 474-1608.

Holly Daze
Under One Roof offers holi-
day shopping at Napa Valley
Food & Wine event, benefits
HIV care in Napa. 5:30pm.
2362 B Market. 252-9430.

Luis Mallo
Cuban-born, NY-based pho-
tographer's photos of trains
and train stations. Thru 1/5.
Galleria, UC Extension
Center, 55 Laguna.
252-5221.

Obsession
Exhibition juried by Gary
Garrels, Chief Curator, SFMO-
MA. Tues.-Sat. thru 12/16.
Southern Exposure, 401
Alabama. 863-2141.

**Picasso the
Sculptor**
First exhibition of Picasso's
sculptures on the West
Coast. Thru 3/10. Palace of
the Legion of Honor, 34th
Ave. & Clement. 863-3330.



▲ Saturday

J. John Priola's "Man" (1995), one of the artworks for sale at the
Big Deal benefit at Space 743 for Visual Aid/Artists for AIDS Relief.

**Prayer and
Medication**
Pictures by Roman X, thru
Dec. Cat's Alley Club, 1190
Folsom.

**Thomas Eric
Stanton,
Elliott Linwood**
Stanton's "I'm Singing My
Father's Dreams," Linwood's
"Love is the Devil's Doormat."
Tu-Sat. thru 1/16. Morphos
Gallery, 49 Geary. 399-1439.

Tendencies:
"New Art from Mexico City,"
eight young MC artists curat-
ed by Rubén Gallo. Tues.-Sun.
thru 1/21. Walter/McBean
Gallery, SFAI, 800 Chestnut.
771-7020.

Women With Balls
Showcase for women stand-
up comics, every Tues. 8pm.
Cat's Alley Club, 1190
Folsom. 431-3332.

Wednesday 13

Gay Skate
Rink full of queers on roller-
skates. \$5 includes skates
rental. 8-10:30pm. Rolladium
Roller Rink, 363 North
Amphlett, San Mateo.
1-800-473-8658.

Holiday Nutcrackin'!
SF comic Mark Davis and
Seattle comedy duo Dos
Fallopia in a twisted tribute
to the holidays. Wed.-Sun.
thru 12/31. \$12-14. 8pm.
Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th
St. 861-7933.

**Kiss of the
Spider Woman**
Chita Rivera stars in the
musical based on the novel
by Manuel Puig. Wed.-Sun.
at various times thru 12/23.
Tonight at 8pm. \$32-62.50.
Orpheum Theatre, 1192
Market. 474-3800.

Open All Night
Exhibit of photographs from
Ken Miller's new collection:
skinheads, addicts, whores,
thru 1/13. Vision North
Gallery, 2300 Polk. 474-4581.

Points of Entry:
"Reframing America," seven
European émigré photogra-
phers. Also: "S-21: Portraits
from the Killing Fields,"
Khmer Rouge brutality. Tues.-
Sun. thru 1/7. \$4. Ansel
Adams Center for
Photography, 250 4th St.
495-7000.

Seven Guitars
A.C.T. presents August

Wilson's latest play: 1948
African American life. Tues.-
Sun. thru 12/23, call for
times. \$15-41. 8pm. Marines
Memorial Theatre, 609
Sutter. 749-2ACT.

Weslia Whitfield
Performing great American
popular songs by Gershwin,
Porter, Rodgers & Hart, more.
Wed.-Sat. thru 12/31. \$20-
25. Plush Room, York Hotel,
940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Thursday 14

Bingo
Gay bingo benefits Coming
Home Hospice, every Thurs.
\$12. Doors 6pm. Most Holy
Redeemer Church, 100
Diamond St. 241-0425.

**An Everyday
Modernism**
Exhibition of the work of res-
idential architect William
Wilson Wurster. Thru 2/11.
SFMOMA, 151 3rd St.
357-4000.

Michael Feinstein
Ira Gershwin's protege reads
from memoir, "Nice Work if
You Can Get It," free.
7:30pm. Clean, Well-Ltd.
Place, 601 Van Ness.
441-6670.

**Lengthening
Shadows
Before Nightfall**
Exhibition of photographs by
John Dugdale. thru 12/23.
Shapiro Gallery, 250 Sutter.
398-6655.

The Nutmeg Project
Robert Henry Johnson Dance
Co. and BES Children's
Educational Theatre present
alternative dance-theatre for
holidays. Thurs., Fri. at
7:30pm, Sun. at 3pm. \$5.
Burial Clay Mem'l Theatre,
762 Fulton. 824-4782.

PWAC
People with AIDS Coalition,
mtg. of consumer's union
and organizational develop-
ment comm. 7pm. 592B
Castro. 522-2341.

Race and Sex:
"Coalition or Comradeship?"
Radical Women on alliance
between women of color.
Dinner, \$5, 6:45pm, mtg.
7:30pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A
Valencia. 864-1278.

Andrea Zittel
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2/4. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St.
357-4000.

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All-American Meatloaf or
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potatoes & gravy.....6.95

Chicken Cordon Bleu stuffed
with honey-baked ham & fontina
cheese, rice or potatoes.....7.95

Penne Pasta with Chicken &
Rock Shrimp, creamy tomato-basil
pesto sauce.....9.75

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"Marcia Wilkie is the Peter Pan of lesbian
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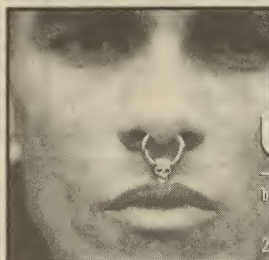
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BAY AREA REPORTER BAZAAR

MR. MARCUS

25 Years of Exemplary Service

It's amazing how time flies. Way back in the '70s, the roster of bike and fraternal clubs in San Francisco was almost double what it is now. It's also amazing that not too many people are aware of The Forum of San Francisco, except for most bike club members. How else do you think the bike club beer busts, overnight runs, special shows, anniversaries and weekend runs get on the mostly SoMa agenda without a coordinating agency to see that these events don't conflict with each other?

In the early '70s, the world of computers was practically non-existent; there were always conflicts about this club or that club having a function on the same night as another club. In addition, there were bike club events going on at the same time as other non-bike club groups were partying or fundraising in our burgeoning gay/lesbian community.

Enter Doug DeYoung, a pioneer in the computer industry who just happened to be a member of the Warlocks Motorcycle Club (the only club that absolutely demanded you own a motorcycle to qualify for club membership). DeYoung managed to gather all the road captains together for a meeting in the back room of the then 527 Club (later Chez Mollet) and presented a plan for a calendar of events, so the different groups' happenings could be scheduled accordingly. The Forum of San Francisco was born, and except for a few isolated cases, there has never been a conflict among the fraternal organizations' soirees.

Last Sunday, Dec. 3, The Forum combined their 25th anniversary with their annual Christmas party at one of the city's newest hostilities, the Andorra Inn (2434 Mission). The posh Andorra is a welcome addition to the many dining and lodging facilities in our town. It's not far off the mark to call it almost swanky.

And the place was jam-packed with almost 200 people, both current club members and a lot of the old-timers who were around when



Photo: Mr. Marcus

They call her "Nanette," and she's the first "Ms." Bingo Leather, chosen at the Coming Home Hospice Bingo benefit game last Thursday, Nov. 30. She beat out five men, mind you!

The Forum was born. Don Thompson created a pleasing ambience in the lounge area, massaging the piano keys better than most of our so-called masseurs could your body. During a brief ceremony, Forum President Dick Manning was beaming with pride at the turnout and the great work his group does. Forum VP Dale Seuss was at his side.

At the risk of invoking snide "Oh yeah, right" remarks, I was completely taken by surprise and overwhelmed to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from The Forum. Sometimes, you wonder if the job you are doing or trying to do is effective and/or appreciated.

When this column first appeared in the B.A.R. with frequent club news, it was not met with the fervor I anticipated. In those days, leather/SM and bike club activi-

ties were not yet "out" so to speak, like today. However, men and women who flocked to San Francisco in the '70s came here to be liberated and live their lifestyle without fear, without hiding, without restrictions - and they did just that. So, before too long, bike club news and events of the leather/biker community became accepted.

I share this tribute with the management and staff of the San Francisco Eagle, a bar which, from the very beginning, made their space and facilities available to the clubs, and continues to do so. They were cited for their 14 years of support. From Patrick Batt (the original manager), to J.C. Corbett, to Terry Thompson and to the present manager, Bob Bowling, you couldn't ask for a more cooperative establishment. The Eagle may be the only bar in the world that has helped various agencies raise almost \$5 million dollars.

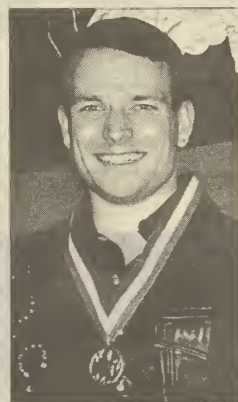


Photo: Vern Stewart

Raymond Hall is Mr. DC-Eagle '95, chosen during the bar's 25th anniversary weekend (Nov. 25). Mr. Hall will compete at IML in Chicago next Memorial Day Weekend.

This bar deserves the award, but it also should be noted that before the Eagle, there were SoMa leather bars that acknowledged the value and goals of The Forum: Febe's (now the Paradise Lounge), The Ramrod (now My Place), the bar at 1347 Folsom (and its many different names), the Speakeasy (now Eichelberger's), the Boot Camp, Black & Blue, Chaps, Men's Room, the Arena and the Watering Hole, among others. Also, I am proud and thankful that B.A.R. publisher Bob Ross had the foresight to have this publication include all segments of this community.

In the welcoming packet for the anniversary event was a very long list of names of those members, community activists and leather titleholders no longer with us. The Forum apologizes for any South of Market leather/biker personality not mentioned.

It was a splendiferous evening and a uniquely warm way to welcome in the official holiday season. Thank you, The Forum of San Francisco. The community looks forward to your next 25 years of service and beyond.



Photo: Mr. Marcus

Bingo volunteer Ted (center) had little trouble selling bingo cards to (l) Patrick Batt and (r) George Carreras at the Coming Home Hospice event last Thursday, Nov. 30.

Eventures in Leather

All phone numbers are in the 415 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Thursday, Dec. 7

Bear-Dog Hoffman, publisher of more magazines than I could possibly list here, and his editor, Joseph Bean, invite you to Brush Creek Media's first anniversary party at the Lone Star Saloon, 2000-2200, for a free-for-all beer bust. Bring non-perishable food for the AIDS Food Bank and get raffle tickets for goodies not enumerated. Congrats and best wishes for continued success. You're doing a great job!

Another "battle of the bulge" basket contest at The Edge tonight, with Danny Williams emceeing and the Old Bag judging. Beer bust, too. Winner gets \$100 and a photo session with Joe Balducci.

Friday, Dec. 8

"Puttin' on the Titz" (what are titz?) dance party (\$10) at 174 King St. Garage to benefit Veronica Klaus' aesthetic needs and V.A.I.N. Help Rogie go pneumatic! Doors open at 2100; show 'at 2230.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Stop AIDS Project presents Daddy-O Philip Turner lecturing on good (and safe) sex from

1300 to 1700. Call 621-7177 (ext. 258) to reserve a free space!

Sunday, Dec. 10

Alameda Co. Leather Corps' third annual "Santa's Slave Auction" (1400-1800) at the Turf Club in Hayward. Emceed by Randy Wright and the B.A.R.'s own Beth Elliott. Beer bust is \$5 or \$8 with the buffet. With live entertainment and a 50/50 drawing - all benefiting the AIDS Emergency Fund. Time to discipline those pesky elves!

The 15 Association's beer bust at the SF-Eagle, 1500-1800, \$8, with a "Boyz 'N' Hoods" contest for best and most unusual hood. Emceed by Daddy Irwin Kane; food by "Corky." It's a benefit, but I'll let them explain it.

Monday, Dec. 11

Second Stop AIDS Project seminar on "bears and bear cubs" from 1900 to 2300, featuring Bear Mag and Lone Star Saloon bears. Call 621-7177 (ext. 258) to reserve your space.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

The Golden Gate Guards MC Beer Bust at the Eagle for \$6, 2000-2300. Bring an unwrapped toy! This is the last toy beer bust for Cornelius

Conroy's M.I.R.A.C.L.E. toy drive.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Mr. Northern California Drummer Omar Moseley lectures on leathersex/top/bottom/boys from 1900 to 2300. Call 621-7177 (ext. 258) to reserve a space.

Friday, Dec. 15

Animal Smith's annual show, "Animal's Positive Christmas 4: A Viral Celebration," opens at the Lennon Studio (271 Dore Alley) at 2000. Plays tomorrow night, too, and next Friday and Saturday. Tix are \$10 at the door. Always a great performance by Mr. Smith.

Saturday, Dec. 16

Farewell party at 1500 at the Eagle for departing Assistant Manager Nick Veratakis. Don't forget: Nick and his groom/bride-to-be are registered at WalMart and Home Depot. This one will be a howl if what I hear is being planned by the usual evil suspects comes to pass!

Bay Area Bear & Cub Contest at Greg's Ballroom in San Jose. The beer bust starts at 1500; the contest at 1700. Watch out for Davy Crockett! Grrrrrr! ▼

Buns and bingo

The holiday season is upon us, and although this week wasn't too busy party-wise, there were some fun moments. Last Thursday, the Coming Home Hospice Bingo night at Most Holy Redeemer looked like some of the gatherings at IML in Chicago. Lots of leather people paid their \$12 for card games, and during the break, the Mr. Leather Bingo Contest got under way. Bulging buns, crotches and muscles, chains, colored hankies and sly "come-hither" stares were abundant.

I don't know how those people managed to keep track of the numbers being called while doing all that heavy-duty cruising. Five men and one woman competed for the title. The ceremony took no more than 13 minutes, and by audience applause, the latex/vinyl-booted "Nanette" copped the honor. Nanette doesn't have to compete at IMsL, throw fundraisers, or do fantasies - just be Ms. Leather Bingo!

Saturday night, a small but enthusiastic group crowded into Club Townsend, lovingly decorated with holiday decor, for Audrey Joseph's annual toy drive event for children with AIDS. La Audrey was hugging a giant stuffed animal all evening while greeting celebrity bartenders, VIPs and keeping it together. A divine gathering and heaps of toys for the little ones.

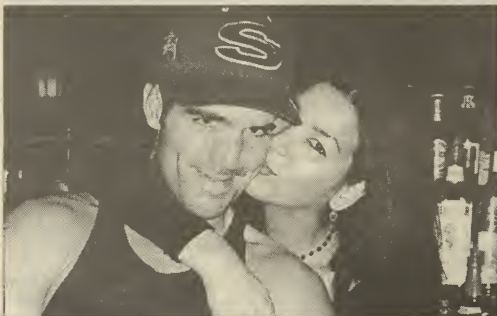


Photo: Mr. Marcus

Pleasuredome bartender America (yes, that's his real name) has no trouble attracting women as well as men at the "Babes in Toyland" party last Saturday night, Dec. 2.

tle ones.

Earlier that evening, not too far away, a small group got together to celebrate the graduation of a gay man from the SF Police Academy. It was a quiet tribute to a SoMa leather man who managed to get through the grueling ordeal of becoming "one of San Francisco's finest."

In this case, it's reassuring to know that this particular officer is indeed one of our best. You have to have integrity, drive, credibility and energy to be a major leather titleholder, a sought-after fundraiser

and auctioneer, a fine athlete, the commissioner of the softball league - just to name a few of his accomplishments. We don't want to embarrass the new cop on the block, but the respect this guy commands was evident all over town this past weekend. The popular white button with red lettering read, "I (Heart) Officer Brenda."

Icing on the cake, of course, was our beloved 49ers' decisive victory over those upstart Buffalo Bills Sunday night. What a great weekend to usher in the holiday season! ▼

a taste of leather

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SELF-INTERVIEW

Pierce

Continued from page 41

Pierce: No. I never kept anyone. They had to work or they got the heave-ho.

Charles: I meant simply maintaining a relationship.

Pierce: Ahhhhh, that glorious time when the stranger across the crowded room smiles at you and you feel as if you had been hit with lightning. What a jolt! (Suddenly turns into Bette Davis.) The first night together. The first night on the town together. A cozy restaurant with candlelight and wine. Holding hands under the table. Of course, that makes eating and drinking a little difficult, but who cares? You're in love. Then you're promising him trips to London on the Concorde. Off on the Orient Express to Venice, Rome, Cairo. They either hang on thinking you are serious or they know you are not, so you end up brushing your teeth alone. If they do hang in there and keep calling then suddenly you are plunged into depression and the worry of how to get rid of them.

Charles: Do you like women?

Pierce: Of course I like women. I have a very pleasant relationship with Bea Arthur. We have more laughs than are allotted to most people. I have women friends in every city I have played. I write to them all the time.

Charles: Do you have any regrets?

Pierce: What do you want me to say? I regret never having won an Academy Award. I regret never having been on a Broadway theater stage. I regret never having sailed down the Nile or made love in a sand dune on Fire Island. Never having found "just the right person"? Look. In a way I have done all of those things. That is, in the realm of my world. I have won many awards for my performances and shows I've been in. Besides the nightclub engagements around New York, I was at the Beacon Theatre on Broadway for one night in a fabulous show. I've performed with a variety of entertainers, including Sally Rand, in her 70s and still doing the famous fan dance. "Frisco Follies"



Charles Pierce

was a group at the time specializing in pantomimes; Monte Rock was there and a version of the Ballet Trocadero. I came and went as Mistress of Ceremonies, at one point rising from the orchestra pit playing a pipe organ as Norma Desmond! If that show hit Broadway theaters today, we would have a run of two or three years. We were way ahead of our time. Even Anita Loos, who wrote "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and a lot of films, came on as "The Mystery Lady." It was a camp!

Charles: What precisely is a 'male actress'?

Pierce: That was a description I used for myself when I was in a play (here) in San Francisco. I played Helen in a two-act play, *Geese*. I was the mother of a gay boy in one act, and the other was all about lesbians in the deep South. It was 1969 and there was nudity for days! Shocking for its time. I didn't use the Male Actress billing for too long as other (he stresses the word) impersonators decided they would rather be male actresses, so they stole it from me. Then it lost its class and value to me.

Charles: Would you care to mention just who were the ones who "borrowed" the term?

Pierce: I would not. Most of them are doing drag shows (he points upward) in that big gay bar in the sky.

Charles: So you think there is life after drag — up there?

Pierce: In all seriousness I have my doubts about a life hereafter. I think there is something but I am afraid that no one has come up with exactly what it is that we go to. A fade out and that is it? Oh, it would be wonderful to meet up with everyone we've known in some idyllic setting. I certainly do not think the human body developed by itself. But that's another interview, isn't it?

Charles: Plain and simple: You have retired.

Pierce: (Raises his hand.) Stop! I have abdicated.

Charles: Hmm, cute.

Pierce: You're catching on. That's what Norma Desmond said to Bill Holden in *Sunset Boulevard*. Just like that, too.

Charles: So, you did not retire, you abdicated. In other words, you are leaving the dresses, high heels, the wigs and makeup to those following in your wake?

Pierce: You make it sound like I was a boat. Here's a toast to the RuPauls, the Lypsinkas, and the Charles Busches. (He raises his glass and drinks.) I won't be here, of course. But I would love to know what they'll all be doing with their lives at my age.

Charles: And that is?

Pierce: Can you keep a secret?

Charles: Oh, yes.

Pierce: So can I.

Charles: You've used that as a closing for every interview you've given over the last 30 years. Please tell your age?

Pierce: There were two of me on the Ark. I was the one with the beads.

Charles: No more bad jokes, please. Your age?

Pierce: I remember breaking a high heel getting off the Mayflower. That Plymouth Rock was a bitch to walk on.

Charles: Your age, PLEEEZE!

Pierce: My Transylvanian fan club would be too upset. Let's just say I have led a long and fruitful life. I have been blessed in knowing some wonderful, fun people. My work in nightclubs was not work. It was party time. When I first started in '54 I couldn't believe I was being paid to have such a good time. That \$75 a week shot up to \$250 for my next engagement, and I still felt I was taking money I did not deserve. I was really lucky to have been brought up in the '30s. I think of that time often. Except for distant cousins, I am the last of my family. With so many friends gone and most of my family, the phone doesn't ring as often as it used to. (Makes a gesture of playing the violin.)

Charles: A final thought?

Pierce: Jessie, my mother, said from time to time, "If you are going to live, live pretty." Then she would immediately make plans to have the house redecorated or go out and buy a new dress and hat.

Charles: And you?

Pierce: I'll stick with mother. Live pretty. But do everything in a moderate way. Do not blow everything at once. No pun intended. When your own true love walks out the door leaving you flat, sure, get upset, but get over it fast! Oh, by the way, I'm 69. Always have been. ▼

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TRAVEL

Gay Tourism

Continued from cover

ber, noting that *Out & About* isn't a gay travel magazine per se. "We really think of ourselves as a mainstream travel publication with a gay perspective."

But perhaps *Out & About* is closer to a gay travel version of *Consumer Reports*. Launched in 1992, *Out & About* accepts no advertising, and is entirely supported by its 8,000 subscribers.

"We felt that the gay travel information available to women and men traveling prior to our inception was very much advertiser-driven — not only advertiser biased, but it also tended to cover destinations that had gay travel advertisers as a way to lure those travel advertisers," says Kolber. "We felt that the only way to cover gay travel objectively was to start a publication that didn't accept advertisers."

Not about gay bars

Wayne Whiston, editor of *Our World*, has heard this complaint for years, but he still doesn't buy it. His publication is advertiser-supported, and he doesn't think this compromises the magazine's integrity.

"I think it's a red herring," says Whiston, noting that he has covered venues that have never advertised, and vice versa. "People say since you have advertisers, you can't be objective, but I think that's nonsense."

Whiston, like Kolber, includes non-gay establishments in his magazine. With a circulation of 28,000, Florida-based *Our World* is now one of the largest — and toniest — gay travel publications on the market.

"We sort of wanted to be like *Conde Nast*," says Whiston, who has tried to redefine gay travel in a more classy and less sexual way at *Our World*, where he's been editor for eight years. "We didn't want to be geared toward sex trips where everybody travels just to meet somebody. Gay travel has changed so much, and the bulk of gay travelers are couples. A lot of people who travel now are not looking for gay bars."

But clearly, a large number of travelers are still looking for gay bars and taking "sex trips." For those readers, Boston-based *The Guide* stands out as the least mainstream of the travel publications.

"For travel information, we try to cover the explicitly gay angle of cities, and it's surprising to me that sometimes so-called gay travel information spends a lot of time covering information you could get from the *Michelin Guide* or *Fodor's*," says *Guide* editor French Wall. "We don't do that. We want you to know where the sauna is in town and where the cruisy area would be and where the guesthouses are that are specifically geared toward gay travelers. All that other information is available elsewhere."

Gay and sexual liberation

Sex is central to *The Guide* and its travel information. In fact, as Wall describes, *The Guide* isn't just a travel magazine, as evidenced by its non-travel-related articles and columns.

"It's a gay and sexual liberation publication, and we use travel to increase our distribution and revenue to support the editorial message," says Wall, and with a circulation of 31,000, this tactic seems to be working. Each monthly issue includes news on entertainment, politics and sex in addition to a handful of travel features and nearly two dozen maps of gay venues in cities around the world. While it lacks the comprehensiveness of *Spartacus* and the journalistic objectivity of its competitors, *The Guide* is up front with its biases and blunt with its travel ad-

vice. Plus, its listings are extensive enough to at least get travelers started in a new city.

If Kolber and Whiston disagree about the impact of advertising on credible reporting, Wall actively embraces the advertiser bias in *The Guide*.

"We're overtly trying to promote advertisers," Wall says. "When we do travel articles and features, we try to make sure the information is all accurate and useful to readers and in no way misleading, but our goal if we do feature a city is to promote it as well as the people advertising."

The Guide not only accepts ads from guesthouses and bars, but also from bathhouses and phone sex lines, which *Our World* explicitly refuses to do. *The Guide*, which began in 1980 as a men's bar rag, doesn't court a large lesbian audience; the other magazines, however, aim to serve both gay men and lesbians. While even a few years ago this would have meant covering two distinct sets of travel itineraries, today the gay and lesbian travel markets overlap as much as they diverge, notes Whiston. Key West and Provincetown have long been known as gay male resorts, for example, but they are becoming increasingly popular travel destinations for lesbians as well.

Women-only venues

Out & About also covers lesbian spots, including women-only and mixed venues where lesbians are welcome. "Because we write about places where gay people feel comfortable, there is a large overlap between men and women," says Kolber, adding that his subscriber base is 20 percent women.

Whether the trends in gay travel really are toward couples and not singles, mixed venues instead of exclusive ones, and museums instead of saunas, one trend is evident just from looking at the magazines' featured trips (the Azores, Quebec, Sydney): gay travel is getting expensive. No longer limited to run-down cabins by the dunes in Provincetown, gay travel now runs to five-star hotels in chic locales.

"Things have certainly gotten more upscale. There's no doubt about it," says Whiston, who has seen significant changes since his magazine's inception. Not only are the trips more luxurious, he says, but more people are now looking for "exotic adventure holidays" in places like Nepal, which were a rarity ten years ago. Just in the last decade, gay travel has grown from a limited enterprise into a major international industry. As Whiston declares, "It's a whole new ball of wax, really." ▼

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A Myth for Gay Kids

Baby Be-Bop by Francesca Lia Block; HarperCollins, \$13.95

by Jeffery Kennedy

Award-winning young-adult novelist Francesca Lia Block takes risks. In a field choking with clichés, poor writing and reactionary traditionalism, Block pushes the boundaries of her genre by writing, in a unique, empathetic voice, about contemporary teens wrestling with difficult issues. Characters in her previous books have faced pregnancy, death and ostracism. *Baby Be-Bop*, Block's fifth installment in her series of "Weetzie Bat" books, tells one gay boy's coming-of-age story.

Many gay male teens will recognize themselves in the central character, suburban skater Dirk. Dirk knows he must keep his sexuality a secret in order to survive, even after recognizing that the strength required to do so comes at an enormous cost. He negotiates having to pass at school and with girls who have crushes on him. He

and his male best friend fall in love, but their inability to express their feelings drives them apart. Desperate, Dirk turns to the punk rock subculture as an outlet for his repressed emotions; fascist skin-heads bash him.

Coming to peace

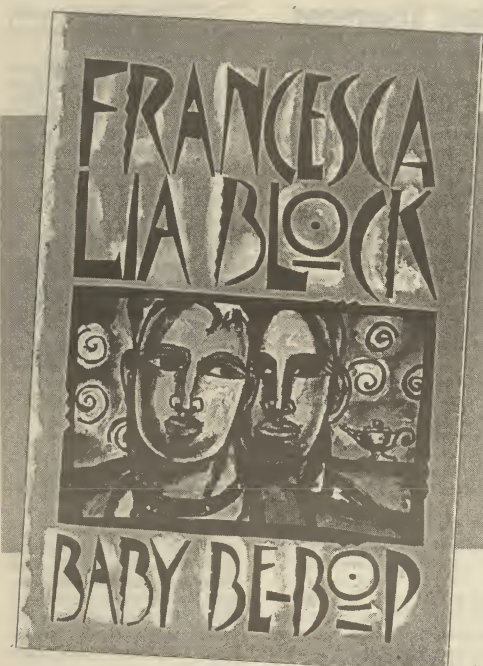
This assault forces Dirk to explore his personal history. By asking questions about his past, wondering who his deceased parents were and learning their stories, Dirk acquires knowledge about his origins that enables him to make peace with his feelings, come out and take his first peek at surfer Duck, the love of his life. (For the story of Dirk and Duck's romance, read Block's 1989 novel "Weetzie Bat.")

On the surface, *Baby Be-Bop*, like Block's other young-adult novels, reads like science fiction. Her early-'80s Los Angeles backdrop is a magical place where things are not as they appear. Cars, pets and plants, for example, take on qualities that alter their meaning in fantastic ways.

Dirk's cat Kit isn't merely a pet: she's a divining rod who ferrets out pain and heals it. Block's imaginative, sensual descriptions – "aloe-vera-green eyes," "valentine nose" – give commonplace objects an enchanting beauty. Still, even the most unbelievable situations – Dirk conversing with the ghosts of his parents or taking a magic-carpet ride with a genie – ring true.

Through all of these strange twists and turns, Block never allows her story to drift into outer space. Dirk is thoroughly human. The kernel of his sexuality and his being lies in his dreams. Images on movie screens and drives with the top down on the interstate provoke realizations that nudge him toward adulthood.

Like everyone else, Dirk makes mistakes and has regrets, gets angry and feels lonely. Block's skillful, poetic combination of the real, unreal and surreal pushes *Baby Be-Bop* beyond fantasy. With *Baby Be-Bop*, Block gives gay kids their first myth. ▼



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2 hours for 2 dollars

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Adults Only

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- Live Talk
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24 Hours
\$2.00
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 On your 25th Anniversary of ser-
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 for a splendid Christmas Party &
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"I've had hundreds of massages before and yours is the best- the best of the best!"
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Essential Oils, Unscented Lotion, Certified Acupressure, Deep Tissue, Shiatsu
Non Sexual
Market/Cuervo
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MARIN/SF
TOM 459-4217
10 and 11pm



sensual tantric massage
swedish deep tissue
zen shiatsu
6'4" 160 ERIK CMT
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BODY ECSTASY
Taoist Erotic Massage
Sensual-Sacred-Supportive
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Discount PWAs
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Jack Walder CMT



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Strong, secure energizing bodywork by handsome, adept CMT. 75 min. \$45/\$55 In/Out
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Erotic Full-Body Massage
Out Only. \$35 Dan. Pager #/VM:
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Refreshing*Full-Body*Brad
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Great Touch*773-9130*Kory
Young,Smooth Blond • AM/PM

ORIENTAL MASSAGE
Full-Body • Page: 373-8570

Warm*Healing*Friendly
Complete * 773-9130 * Kory

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Massage Play, Snuggle, Etc.
\$40 SPECIAL!!!
Handsomeness, hung, Oral XX-Perf
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First Time Offered In SF
A Unique Experience
Appointment Required
With 24 Hr Notice.
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Energizing, Therapeutic.
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Nurturing, Sensual
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STRONG HANDS
SENSITIVE & EXPERIENCED
From Stress Reduction to
Simple Relaxation

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RUSSIAN RIVER
By Sexy, Well-Built Stud
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SENSITIVE DOWNTOWN DAD
Offers nurturing full-body
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Jim \$35 474-2915

Feel Great!



Relax with an expert Swedish Esalen Massage
John, C.M.T.
386-0152, \$35/hr., \$45/1-1/2 hour
Body Electric Graduate since 1986

Swedish Deep-Tissue Massage
Smooth, Swimmer's Build
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George Hamilton Look-Alike
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Outcalls preferred, Hotels
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Any Race * 773-9130 * Kory

Masterly compleat Massage
By Versatile, skilled GDLK
Oak CMT, From Sensual To
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REJUVENATE!
With a Holistic Massage
By Kurt \$45 in/\$55 out 90min.
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surf with this!



boy: beach
attitude: fresh
massage: erotic
swedish
deep tissue
chinese (tui na)

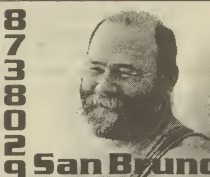
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experienced,
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masseur works in
pleasant, roomy
house near Muni,
easy parking, quiet
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MASSEUR offers strong hands,
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Full-Body, Deep-Tissue
Erotic Massage by 31 Y/O
Very Handsome, Masculine
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5'5" 135 lbs Nice Chest and
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Deep Tissue Swedish-Esalen Massage
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Castro Location—Gift Certificates Available
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LUSH * SATISFYING
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Smooth Blond 773-9130 Kory
SF HOTELS OK
Handsome, Friendly WM, 32,
Built (5'10", 170#), Great Hands
Gives Full-Body, Swedish
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Days/Eves. Mike,CMT 388-4583

TOM ADVENTURESOME
Built tight, muscular and hung
Blond man, 34, 6', 210 lbs.
Very friendly guys
over 30 preferred
Sensual massage in the buff
\$45 in/\$60 out 24 hrs.
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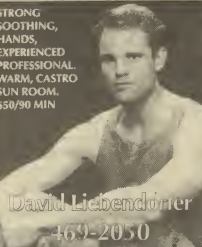
SONOMA COUNTY
35, Bld/Gnt Strong
1 Hr. 9 am - 9 pm
Doug (707) 837-8000

STRONG HANDS & CARING TOUCH
Swedish / Esalen
Enrique CMT.
584-6170
12-9pm



From Healing Hands
Nurturing & Relaxation
Attractive 28 yr old
Swedish & Esalen Styles
Warm Environment
Comfortable Table
90 min. ~ \$50.00 in
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Are your neck and shoulder muscles tight, your back
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It's time to treat yourself to a deep and relaxing
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Handsome 27, with a passionate touch
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Brat! 5'9" 150# 8' uncult
\$55/1hr. \$70/90 min.
Sliding Scale for PWA.
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FRIDAY DECEMBER 22nd - 12:00 NOON • FRIDAY DECEMBER 29th - 12:00 NOON

COLONIC IRRIGATION
 7 Days - By Appointment Only
 • 241-0567 •



Blonde Canadian
 A Touch of Class
 Turn Your Fantasy into Reality!
 Dynamite Massage for a Man
 Who Demands Perfection!
 Cathedral Hill Area \$45 in - \$60 out
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 Leaving San Francisco
 This is Good Bye!

IN A HOLLY DAZE?
 Take a break
STRONG CONFIDENT CARING HANDS
 Full Body \$55 90 min.
 Wyman 585-3146

TAKE A BREAK!
 Healing hands that
 nurture the heart.
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 I use energy work,
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 in various massage
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Great **MASSAGE**
 by Pleasant **LATINO**
 out/in Bi **CARLOS**
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Great Full Body Massage
 By Caring and
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 Deep, Gentle
 \$50 **Jeff**
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 V-handsome Scandinavian Man,
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 Especially like small
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 RELAXING • SENSUAL • HEALING
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 \$40/IN \$50/OUT



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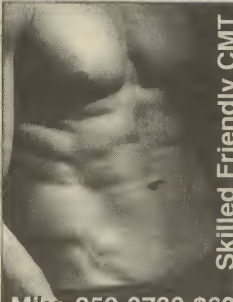
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 A Professional Man
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 By A Handsome Man
 6'1", 210 lbs., Blond/Blu
Sam 885-6379
 24 HRS.
 1st Timers Welcome



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HANS
NORWEGIAN MAN
 Wholesomely Handsome, 33
 6', 195 lbs., great tan body
 1 1/2 hr. super massage
 in nude; Japan Center
 \$45/In \$60/Out 24 hours.
292-2373

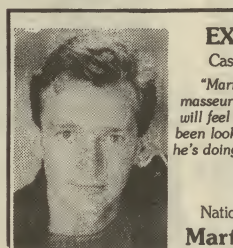


Experience Ecstasy
 Excellent Deep Tissue
 Massage and Touch
 by gifted and attractive masseur
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 Joseph Kramer, Founder of
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 \$60/90 min. \$45/60 min.
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Nurturing Bodywork
 90 min \$50 CMT
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 "Martin Hyland is a professional certified
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 will feel the beneficial effects for days. If you've
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 Nationally Certified 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
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 Hot. Certified. • 804-2152
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 Sensual Massage by Strong,
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COMPLETELY SATISFIED
 Sensual Nude Massage
 By Tall
 Well Built Bear
 \$50/90min
 Gift Certificates
BRENT
285-9876

San Mateo
 Full body massage.
 Experienced. Certified.
 \$40 in, out extra.
 Late/early calls OK.
Joe (415) 342-5035

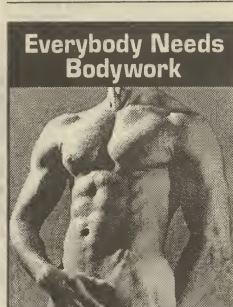
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 Attractive, Masculine, 27
 Offers Relaxing
 Total Body Massage
 The Way You Want It!
 Convenient Location
 In/Out. \$50

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Body Electric Instructor - 5 years experience • 387.9410
 • Neck & Back
 1/2 hr. \$25
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Erotic, Full-Body Massage
 by Warm, Slender, Nude
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 No-nonsense Asian*Rubdown
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¡Caliente!
 24 y.o., Super Handsome,
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 Certified in Switzerland
 Treat yourself to
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 You deserve the best!
\$40/60 Paco 487-9575

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 Therapeutic & Erotic
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 Certified & Discreet
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Fantasy Massage
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 Prostate Complete Relief
 Have Table; In/Out; Will Travel
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Caring, Nurturing, Sensual
 Swedish Massage by 36 YO
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Strong Deep Tissue Massage
 Call Robert
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Experience the Ultimate
BARE BEAR
 Massage by Hairy, Italian
 Ex-Football Jock. \$40/\$60
 2-Man Massage available.
 Pete • 285-4652 • 24 Hours

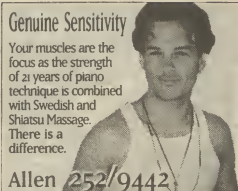
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 You Get What You Need
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STRONG-SENSITIVE EAST BAY
 Swedish, Deep Tissue
 Certified Fit Gdkg Man
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San Jose - Prof. Swed. Massage
 \$30/Hr. \$45/1 1/2 Hr. In Calls.
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HOT HAIRY MUSCLE
 Great Massage By Hard and
 Hairy Body * Ken • 861-1671

B.A.R. CLASSIFIEDS



RELAX
BUT GET AROUSED
Sensual, Erotic
Nude Massage
by 24 y/o Handsome
Muscular Caring Guy
TOMAS: 661-4053

Attr.Young Southeast Asian
28, 5'7 135, Nice Hand Appt.
Prefer 10AM-10PM, SF Only
Sean*674-8458, \$70/\$85 Out

Call! Charles! Goodlooking!
All-American! GWM! \$35/Hr In!
\$45 Out! Pager# 201-4656!
NUDE,EROTIC
TOTAL FULL-FODY!
Student Discount,Tel 928-6393

BLACK POWER!
Super Nude Erotic Massage
5'10" 175 All Muscle Hot!
Dark Handsome & Friendly
\$60/Hr. Out Only
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Sensual Msg, Escort
& More Hot Jock
Discount for 2 Clients
346-7975 Kevin
Asian Dream

A TOUCH OF CLASS
A RELAXING MASSAGE
 by a handsome, masculine blond,
 6', 190, beautifully nude
 muscular body, summer tan.
Firm, Erotic Swedish Massage
 Massage Lotion & Table, Hard to Beat it
\$45/In \$60/Out 75 mins.
Mike 931-0149 24 hrs.

James Patrick Kennedy CMT

Swedish/Deep
Tissue Massage

Clean, Warm, Private,
Relaxing Studio

4 Years Experience

Castro Locale
Easy Parking

Sliding Scale for PWA

241-9105

Want someone professional and friendly?
I give a full body massage in the nude.
I am a Norwegian man, 35, Lt. bodybuilder & swimmer, handsome & clean-cut. Certified.
\$45 in. 24 hrs.

474-8027




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MAN**

550-8765
BOB

Bodywise Therapeutics
Great Deep Swedish, Shiatsu, Reiki &
Drisana Energy by 9 yr. cert. professional.
Also teach Reiki classes. Quiet Noe Studio.
Available daytimes. \$35/hr. & up.
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 Deeply Relaxing, Sensual
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 Evenings and Weekends
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**THERAPEUTIC
MASSAGE**
Swedish Deep Tissue
Non-Sexual \$35 hour
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Major SF Hotels * 24 Hours
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MERRY MUSCLE
Warm, Friendly & Hairy!

Very Cute, Young & Boyish
Blond/Blue/Tan/Smooth
HOT NUDE MASSAGE
24 Hrs * 905-4548 * \$80/Up



Sensual Massage
6', 175, In/Out
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Tony -- C.M.T.
(510) 536-0539

**Healing
Massages**

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Integrative Massage

*Because Life
Is Meant to
Feel Good*

Jim
415 675-5669
Noon - 9 pm

Greg 415/436-9650, In/Out
Complete Massage by a Hot
BUFFED BLOND

HOLIDAY DEADLINE - CLASSIFIED & DISPLAY ADVERTISING
FRIDAY DECEMBER 22nd - 12:00 NOON - FRIDAY DECEMBER 29th - 12:00 NOON

Most People Say
WOW!!
Find Out Why
Cane **Pager # (415) 709-1930

**HOT • STRONG • MALE
MESSAGE BY LATIN STUD
CMT • 621-5605**

Hot Nude Sensual Massage
by handsome 28; Sexy, Built
& Friendly. Jeff CMT 553-8804.

Complete Stressbuster
by Handsome, Friendly Guy
Pleasant Hill Studio. PWA/HIV+
Disc. Swedish/Electric
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First Class Massage For Distinguished Clientele. Just the Best! 24 Hrs • 252-7932 • \$75

ASIAN BODY PLAY
Smooth Athletic Korean Boy
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**BIG HANDS ARE
BACK IN TOWN**
Deep, strong & satisfying
Complete Full-Body Massage
\$50 & Up * Downy 864-3777

HIV Health Massage
"He really loved to get naked and be rubbed all over with oil..." But actually, my health massage is offered exclusively for HIV-positive people. I feel wonderful and help clear your lymph system. \$50 (out) Gene 875-9463

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**Strong & Relaxing Massage
for Your Body & Soul**
Pager **201-4300**

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863-2094



**BUZZ
CMT**

**FRIENDLY
BOY**
Great Rubdown by Cute
30 Yr Old w/ Brains
TIM * 282-8669

BAY AREA REPORTER—December 7, 1995—PAGE 59

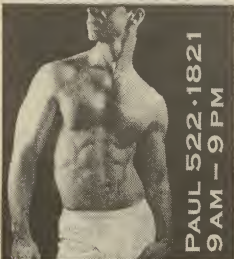
MASSAGE

HOLIDAY DEADLINE - CLASSIFIED & DISPLAY ADVERTISING

FRIDAY DECEMBER 22nd - 12:00 NOON - FRIDAY DECEMBER 29th - 12:00 NOON

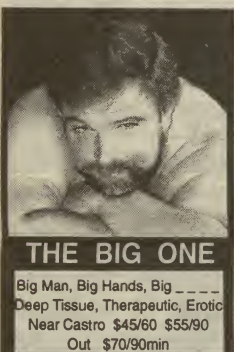


998-3754



PAUL 522-1821
9 AM - 9 PM

STRONG MASSAGE
for men
certified **481-1980**



THE BIG ONE
Big Man, Big Hands, Big _____
Deep Tissue, Therapeutic, Erotic
Near Castro \$45/60 \$55/90
Out \$70/90min
MARKUS 864-4209 CMT



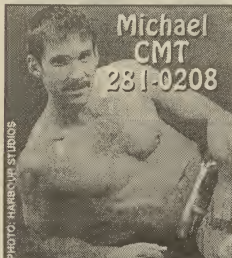
KNEADFOOT THINGS
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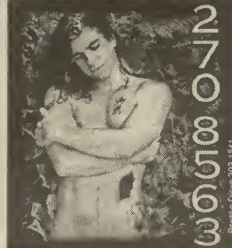
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27 y.o.
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Serving all bay areas

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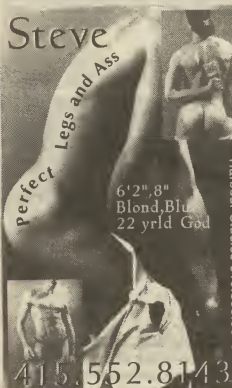
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YOUNG & HUNG
Hot 20 yo 6'2 180 Red,Blue
Goodlkg, Clean-Cut, Friendly
& Fun. Hung 9X6", Sean, Pgr #
208-1082*24 Hrs*Out*\$100

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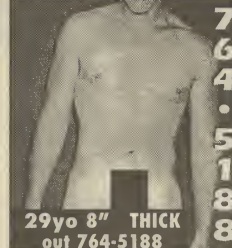
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Rad Body, Extremely GdLkng
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clean-cut, gdllkg All-American
& Hung 9X6. Sean, Pgr. #
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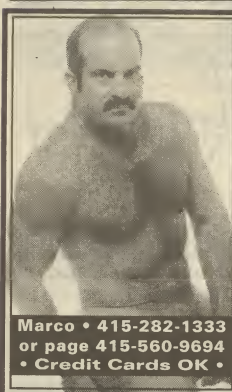


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22 yrd Gd
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 Athletic Build • Friendly
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 8" cut fat. Great ass/legs.

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 Body Builder, 230 Lbs.
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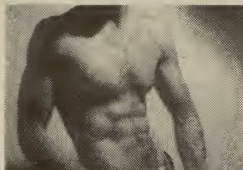
Marshall
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NOT too young (33)
 Not too tall (5'6")
 • Likable
 • Attractive
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★ Business Class ★
\$2,000.00
 Includes dinner, theater, massage, etc.
 depending on the date/might be a little
 expensive but a real treat. Only
 has been a Musical Sexy experience.
 Set in 208 5105 34 y.o. 5'10" 165# 30"

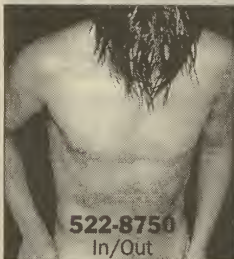
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 Falcon Model visiting S.F.
 5'11"-190lbs-45"C-30"W-18"A
 Hot Tanned & Muscular Body
 Exceptional Good Looks
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MAN NEXT DOOR
Muscular 34 6'4" 190#
Auburn Blond, Lightly Furry
Hung \$100 SEAN 487-1949

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One of the Biggest and Best
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5'6", 145, 8x6" Uncut
Tom 280-4199



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In/Out




24 yo 8" uncut
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Short, muscular, 41 yr. old sadist,
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Big Dick * 560-5119
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23
Blond
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My Talent*JACK*(415) 270-4496

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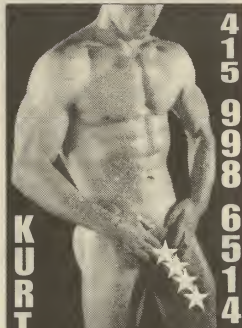
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HOT YOUNG BOY
9" THICK
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Handsome, Aggressive
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Built, Friendly, Dominant!
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190 Lbs, Beautiful, Hard, Smooth Body
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Lightly Hairy Chest

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Prince will take your breath away!
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sages & satisfies fetishes & fan-
tasies. In/Out 487-7662

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Gorgeous Butt, Eyes & Lips
Well-Equipped, 5'11", 165, 29 y/o
Mainly Top, but Versatile
Ron 560-0564 Page me Twice

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6" Smooth Hung * 522-1736

Smooth, Cute, Lean, 5'10", 150#,
Whiteboy, 26, Versatile & Discreet
for Hot Eves. & Weekends
Outcalls * Matt * Pgr 208-1165

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Sexy, Solid, Trim & Smooth
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Extremely Top. Out Only
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22 year old 5'11" 160 Hot Switch
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Much Better Than Your Hand
Alecc. 22 * 282-HOTF \$80

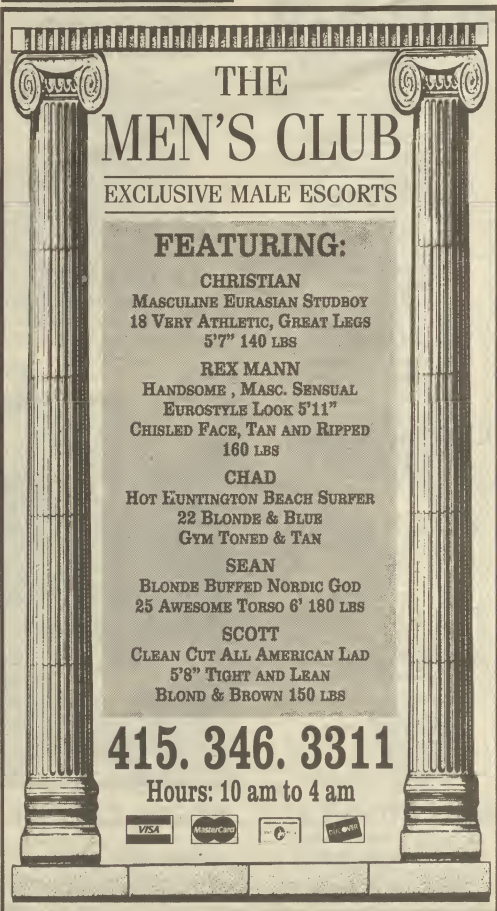
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HOT ASIAN
Pgr: 280-3735. Ph: 860-7311

Smooth, Cute Puerto Rican
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Massage N Play. Handsome mus-
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man needs a rubdown to get
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